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THE HISTORY OF SOCCER IN ALBERTA

by
BRAD BECKETT

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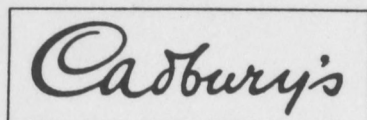
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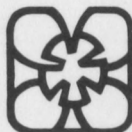
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1971 - 1980

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WESTERN INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH & TRAINING CENTRE

THE HISTORY OF SOCCER IN ALBERTA

BY

BRAD BECKETT

EDITED BY GARY SAMPLEY

75TH ANNIVERSARY PROJECT OF THE
ALBERTA SOCCER ASSOCIATION
1911 - 1986

Gary Sampley
Executive Director

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PREFACE

This history, which is a 75th Anniversary project of the Alberta Soccer Association, was originally conceived by our former Executive Director, Kevan Pipe, and ably brought to fruition by Brad Beckett, a University of Alberta Recreational Administration student working with the A.S.A. on a practical work placement.

Without the assistance of the U. of A.'s placement program, Brad's own keen interest and initiative in researching and writing the history and the funding provided by the Alberta Sport Council and Alberta Recreation and Parks, this volume would not exist, and the history of our sport in Alberta would continue to remain scattered on dusty shelves and in personal memories all over the province.

To the University of Alberta, the Government of Alberta, the many individuals who contributed information to this project, and to Brad Beckett himself, a very capable and conscientious young man, the Alberta Soccer Association extends a very sincere "Thank You".

Gary Sampley
Executive Director

INTRODUCTION

The History of Soccer in Alberta has been written with the hope that it will be of some interest to soccer administrators, as well as other readers who share an interest in the sport of soccer. This book is not meant to be exhaustive or totally comprehensive. Some dates and events are missing which others might have included and there are some larger "gaps" than I would have preferred in places, due to the absence of much information from the periods of , and between, the two world wars. Many records and statistics have either been lost or destroyed. In addition, some of the members who were actively involved in soccer in Alberta have passed on or moved away. However, we have tried to include many of the "important firsts" and "significant highlights" that have occurred on the Alberta soccer scene over the years.

In the words of the historian Louis Gottscalk, ".... only a part of what was observed in the past was remembered by those who observed it; only a part of what was remembered was recorded; only a part of what was recorded has survived: only a part of what has survived has come to the historian's attention; only a part of what has come to their attention is credible; only a part of what is credible has been grasped; and only a part of what has been grasped can be expounded or narrated by the historian."

Brad Beckett
February, 1986

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THE BIRTH OF SOCCER IN ALBERTA

The game of soccer, also known as football or association football, has been played in various forms for over 2,000 years with its birth seemingly tied to Europe. "Modern" soccer was born in England and rapidly spread to other parts of the British Isles, and from there to Continental Europe and the rest of the world.

In Alberta, soccer was perhaps the first team sport to be played. The earliest reference to the game of soccer in Alberta was made by John McDougall in 1862. At that time, that part of the Hudson's Bay Company territory that is now a part of Alberta was settled by native Indians and white settlers, who were primarily of English, Scottish, Welsh, and Irish decent, in whose countries association football was already a popular sport. According to Macdougall, in December of 1862 at Fort Edmonton, in what must have been the coldest conditions possible for outdoor soccer, "the fun was fast and furious".

To the south, recorded soccer games began at Calgary in 1883 between members of the North-West Mounted Police and citizens of the town.

The first organized soccer club in Alberta was formed in Calgary in 1888, with J.K. Shirley as president. This pattern was to be repeated throughout the province and clubs in Edmonton and Lethbridge were formed in 1889. Medicine Hat formed a club ten years later in 1899.

Throughout the 1890's there were many teams playing soccer in these areas. Nearly every school and village had its own team. It should be noted that in 1895, South Edmonton formed what is

believed to be Canada's first ladies team.

Between 1900 and 1919, soccer grew at a rapid rate, due mainly to a large influx of immigrants.

At the turn of the century, football as it was then known and called, was played mainly at a challenge level between towns, villages, school districts, and schools. Challenge matches in the Edmonton district took place around this time involving the Edmonton School, Strathcona School, Whitford, Sturgeon, Fort Saskatchewan, Sunnyside, Camilla, Poplar Lake, Edmonton Town, and the Edmonton Fire Brigade.

In 1902 the tournament form of competition gained popularity. Strathcona won a four team tournament which was held in conjunction with Edmonton's Great Summer Fair.

Before 1906, Inter-town and village leagues were virtually non-existent because of poor transportation and because of the distance between centers of population.

The first official league in Alberta, the Calgary Association Football League (also referred to as the Northwest Territories Association Football League) was the only soccer league that operated in Alberta.

The Calgary league officially began back in 1898 but its structure was based on a tournament-type format only and this was not favorable at the time. In 1900 the league proper was formed with six teams, The Y.M.C.A., Fire Brigade, Dunbow Industrial School, N.W.M.P., Calgary City, and Calgary Indian Industrial School.

The dominant side during this period was the N.W.M.P. team. For five years in a row, 1898 - 1902, they captured the Merchant's Cup, emblematic of the Championship of the Calgary Association Football League.

By 1906 football had taken on a new look, fueled largely by the continued migration of immigrants from the United Kingdom to Alberta. In 1906, two new independent leagues were formed in southern Alberta, while in Red Deer in May, the Alberta Football Association (A.F.A.) was formally constituted.

The establishment of the A.F.A. was the first attempt made to organize football on a provincial scale. At the May 1906 organizational meeting, it was agreed that, "all clubs in the province will be eligible for membership, and application for membership may be made to the secretary at any time before June 1st. The clubs will then be put into suitable districts and a vice president appointed to look after the schedule in each of such districts. The winners in the districts will playoff for the Championship and the Alberta Champions will then be eligible for the Dominion Championships."

Unfortunately, however, during its initial three year existence the A.F.A. did not become provincial in scope because all member districts were located in central Alberta. Thus, clubs in southern Alberta decided to form their own soccer body and named it the Alberta Provincial Association Football Union at a meeting in High River in June, 1907.

In 1909, the Edmonton District Soccer Association was formed, followed soon by leagues and other

official soccer organizations in Calgary, Lethbridge, Drumheller and the Crows Nest Pass areas. They were often sponsored by local merchants and the Canadian National Railway.

The various groups in Alberta began to see the advantages of uniting the pioneer football associations together into one encompassing soccer body.

Thus, a meeting was called for Red Deer on April 19th, 1909 to discuss amalgamation. All members present were unanimously in agreement with the need for a provincial soccer association. The members re-convened in Red Deer on April 30th, 1909 for the purpose of forming an Alberta association. According to information that A.S.A. and C.S.A. life member Sam Donaghey received, there was a good turnout, with the following delegates were present:

J. W. Ward	Edmonton
H. J. Snelle	Red Deer
E. May	Crossfield
J. A. Schofield	Pincher Creek
D. S. Irwin	Lloydminster
F. R. McKittrick	Lethbridge
J. A. Fairley	Innisfail
S. Timmins	Crossfield
P. Lees	Stettler
Dr. G. A. Ings	Calgary
J. A. Jackson	Ponoka
C. R. Murdoch	Calgary
E. J. Riley	Calgary
W. H. Hadley	Red Deer
Dr. A. D. McRar	Calgary
J. H. Ballantyne	Calgary

In addition the following clubs were represented by Proxy:

Pincher Creek	Claresholm
McLeod	Lloydminster
Ponoka	Okotoks
Nationals, Calgary	Y.M.C.A., Calgary
Hillhurst, Calgary	Caledonians, Calgary
Carstairs	Norwood, Edmonton
Y.M.C.A., Edmonton	Strathcona, Edmonton
Caledonians, Edmonton	Lethbridge

Under acting chairman J. W. Ward, bylaws were discussed, and after due consideration, passed

As a result, the original name, "Alberta Association Football League" was now in being. The first president, as a result of the election procedures of that historic meeting, was J. W. Ward of Edmonton.

Initially, however, the A.A.F.L. did little to promote the growth of "association football". The only real functions it performed were the organization of competition districts for games between senior men teams, and the scheduling of provincial playoffs between district winners. During this time, many more areas of soccer could have been developed but were neglected for the most part, including the development of intermediate and junior provincial leagues.

At the end of the first year of operation, it was announced by then Secretary-Treasurer, J. H. Ballantyne of Calgary, that the A.A.F.L. showed receipts of \$40.00. This was comprised of membership fees from the Northern League of \$20.00, \$10.00 from the Central League and \$10.00 from Lethbridge.

Expenses for the year were not great either. Postage was \$10.00. The Secretary had made a trip to Edmonton at a cost of \$12.00, and his typewriting costs were \$5.50, for a total of \$27.50. This left the A.A.F.L. with a profit balance of \$12.50!

At the Annual General Meeting held at the Y.M.C.A. in Edmonton on April 17th, 1911, a motion was made to the effect that the A.A.F.L. be incorporated as a legal entity. The idea behind this was that the Association needed to protect itself "legally" in future dealings with other soccer bodies. The motion was accepted and quickly passed. Thus was legally born the entity which, several name changes later, exists today as the Alberta Soccer Association.

The A.A.F.L. pre-dates the Dominion Football Association, now the Canadian Soccer Association, by a year. J. R. McEwan of Calgary and J. W. Ward of Edmonton were the A.A. F. L. representatives at the formation of the Dominion Football Association which was born in Toronto on May 24th, 1912.

Despite occasional claims of inadequate A.A.F.L. guidance soccer grew quite rapidly in terms of participants and spectator appeal. In essence, the growth of the sport paralleled Alberta's increase in population from 185,412 in 1906 to 470,000 in 1914, including 83,000 arrivals from Great Britain or other parts of the Empire. It is not surprising that the "Brits" were the main organizers and promoters of the sport during this period in Alberta's History.

In 1915 though, due to the war in Europe, soccer activity, along with activity in most other sports, nearly stopped altogether, and the elected officers of the A.A.F.L. carried on as "caretakers" pending the cessation of hostilities.

EARLY COMPETITIONS

IN 1912, Leo Thwaite wrote that Alberta considered herself the banner province of Canada with respect to association football. A review of the accomplishments of senior association football teams in Alberta from 1906 to 1912 tends to substantiate Thwaite's statement.

In 1906 the Calgary Caledonians won the Calgary Senior League for the third consecutive year and decided to look beyond Alberta for competition.

Later that year, the "acknowledged" Western Canadian Champions, Minnedosa, Manitoba, invited the "Callies" eastward. Calgary handily defeated the host Minnedosa side 2 - 0, and in an additional game, stung Winnipeg Celtics 1 - 0 at River Park in Winnipeg.

As a result of their two unexpected wins, the Caledonians were conceded the right to represent Alberta at the initial People's Shield Tournament, symbolic of the Dominion Championship. The Callies won the tournament, and the Shield by defeating Toronto Thistles 2 - 0 and Winnipeg Brittannias 1 - 0. Thus a Calgary club side became the first team in the Dominion to win the National Championships, a deserved credit to the calibre of play in Alberta at the time.

In Vancouver the following year, the Calgary Caledonian eleven retained the National Championship, by defeating Vancouver Thistles 7 - 0 in a Semi-final game and LadySmith, B.C. 2 - 1 in the final.

Calgary hosted the 1909 People's Shield Tournament at Victoria Park. In the championship game the Callies could only manage a goalless draw against the Vancouver Celtics before 1,200 spectators, the largest crowd at a soccer match to that date in Calgary's history. However, luck was on their side and when Vancouver could not stay in Calgary to play a tie-breaker, Calgary was awarded the Shield for the third straight year.

Calgary Hillhursts represented Alberta in 1911 at the People's Shield Tournament in Toronto, where they won top honors by defeating Hamilton 3 - 2. For the 4th straight year, the National Championship Shield was to bear Calgary's name. In 1912, the Challenge Cup, donated by the Duke of Connaught, replaced the People's Shield as the Premier trophy representing Canadian Senior soccer supremacy. The first "Challenge Cup" was played for in 1913 and won by Norwood Wanderers of Winnipeg.

Later that year, led by Mr. Frank Riley, Calgary Hillhursts set sail for England. This was the first time that an individual Canadian club had sent a team to the Old Country. Unfortunately only four games of the planned eight-game tour were played, as a series of Calgary injuries cut the tour short. On October 15th they dropped a 9 - 5 decision to the Liverpool Reserves and on October 17th Calgary were edged by Coventry 4 - 3. The other two games, both draws, have seen the names of their opponents lost in antiquity.

The Hillhurst Roster included: A. McLean, A. Stewart, George Johnston, Stanley Wakelyn, Ron Baldwin, George Ross, Arthur Wakelyn, Alex Melville, Frank McEwan, Alf Arnold, William Dyke and Frank Graham.

On the Provincial level during the pre-war era, the Bennett Shield was the most highly regarded trophy open to competition. It was presented by Mr. and Mrs. A. Bennett of Calgary in August of 1907, and the first Bennett Shield Competition took place the following year. In the finals, the Calgary Caledonians emerged victorious, defeating Edmonton Caledonians 1 - 0.

In the years 1914, 1916, 1917, and 1918 the Alberta Championship was postponed by the A.A.F.L., due to the war effort and the loss of players to the military. The competition was held in 1915, with Lloydminster winning the Bennett Shield.

Looking back, there is little doubt that the Calgary Caledonians were the most outstanding association football team in Canada during the early years. (Although the Calgary Hillhursts achieved great successes in 1911, they were always the second place team to the Callies in league play.) The Callies were first organized on April 26th, 1904. They won five provincial titles and three national titles and they won the strong Calgary Senior League every year from 1904 through 1915. In 1911, the Callies were forced out of the national Championships because of jurisdictional dispute. The second place Hillhursts went instead to represent Alberta and won the People's Shield.

In addition to the participants themselves, the schools and the railways must be given considerable credit for the development of soccer.

The schools encouraged participation in soccer throughout the early years because the game could be played without a large expense for equipment (not unlike the situation today).

In 1908 and 1910, Alberta College of Edmonton and Calgary Normal School played a two-game, home-and-home series. In 1909 the Rutherford Cup was put up for challenge competition between high schools in Central Alberta. That year, Edmonton High School defeated Strathcona High School 4 - 0 and Red Deer High School 1 - 0 to gain first possession of the trophy.

At the public (elementary) school level, the first reported league in Alberta operated in Edmonton in 1911. It was made up of five teams, one each from the Queen's Avenue, McKay Avenue, Alex Taylor, Oliver, and Norwood public schools. By 1914 this league had grown to twenty-three teams and four divisions.

At Calgary in 1914, fifteen teams competed in Calgary's first ever public school soccer program. By the end of 1919, public school association football leagues abounded in Alberta cities.

Soccer also began at the University level during this era. Three games were played between the University of Alberta and the University of Saskatchewan. The first game was played in 1911 at Edmonton and resulted in a 3 - 1 victory for the University of Saskatchewan. A year later, in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan again triumphed, 1 - 0, but in 1913, back at Edmonton, the U. of A. finally gained revenge with a 3 - 1 win.

One significant occurrence which indirectly involved the schools was the advent of indoor soccer. first played at the Calgary Y.M.C.A. in November of 1910, indoor soccer rapidly gained favour at both the Calgary and Edmonton Y.M.C.A.'s and many school gymnasiums. In December, 1910, the Albertan even maintained that Calgary boasted

the first indoor soccer league, not only in Alberta, but also in Canada and possibly the World!

Unfortunately, though, indoor soccer at that time proved to be a "flash in the pan", as it did not survive past 1913. This demise was possibly due to the growth in popularity of two other indoor winter sports, basketball and volleyball. It would be many years before indoor soccer interest in the province was permanently revived.

The railways also indirectly played their part in the growth of soccer across the province. Railway expansion in Alberta was at its peak from 1906 to 1919. Usually the completion of a main or a branch line resulted in the near-immediate creation of at least one inter-village association football "league".

According to Sam Donaghey's "The Alberta Soccer Association - an Early Kickoff", "The importance of rail transportation to meet schedules between the Alberta towns was realized in the first year of operation" (A.A.F.L.'s first year in 1909). To make things easier a resolution was passed by the Edmonton District that "The clubs on the C.N.R. line east of Edmonton, and the clubs on the Calgary and Edmonton line between the two mentioned cities, including the towns of Lacombe and Wetaskiwin be organized into seperate leagues".

It is clearly evident from reading the newspapers of 1914, that soccer was one of the two most popular summer participant and spectator sports in Alberta, the other being baseball.

Rural, village, inter-village, town, inter-town, and urban soccer leagues were springing up all over. In the city of Calgary alone, soccer grew

from a six team league at the turn of the century, to approximately ten organized leagues consisting of sixty teams by 1914.

Senior soccer in Alberta prior to the first World War was played at a high calibre and good players were easy to get. Martin Collingwood, a long-time contributor to the game in Edmonton and area verified this assertion in a 1973 Edmonton Journal article. "...When I was managing, I had Europeans playing for me. First Division players from England and Scotland. I had no trouble getting them, they were broke." But that was before the war. Less than a year after the war began, ninety percent of Alberta senior players were in uniform and either in or on their way to the war.

Between the fall of 1914 and 1918, soccer only thrived in the schools. Nevertheless, by 1919 the sport had regained its pre-war popularity in Alberta, as the veterans came home and traded their military boots for soccer boots.

EARLY TOURING TEAMS

"A cynic might say that an Alberta soccer teams biggest mistake versus touring international teams was showing up for the games, but they would be completely wrong. That isn't what touring soccer is all about. It is to annually remind Canada's soccer enthusiasts just how good European soccer really is. It is to provide a night of nostalgia for fans who care to mentally revisit the Old Country and refresh fond memories of the lands of their youth, even for an all too brief ninety minutes".

Hal Pawson, Edmonton Journal Sports Editor
May 30, 1962

Between 1900 and 1919 a number of British teams toured Canada. They travelled across Canada by train and their visits were quite an event, often referred to as the "highlight" of the season.

The only such recorded matches in Alberta during this period took place in 1911. The games, in Edmonton and Calgary, featured England's most famous amateur team, the Corinthians.

On August 19th, the Corinthians played the All-Edmonton team, defeating Edmonton 6 - 1 at Diamond Park before 2,100 fans, the largest crowd to date at that time. Two days later, the Corinthians played the Calgary All-Stars in Calgary. It was noted in the Edmonton Journal that "the Corinthians expect to have the hardest struggle of their Canadian tour in Calgary and there is money offered that they will be defeated". The game was played on the Hillhurst

football grounds and the Calgary eleven proved to be very tough but lost 4 - 3 to the touring squad. The game was played in front of 4,300 excited spectators. The Calgarians standard of play, for the most part, impressed the Corinthians.

THE TWENTIES

In 1919 the A.A.F.L. was back in full stride again, with excellent leadership from Charles M. Smail of Edmonton, who was President of the association from 1915 to 1919. A.A.F.L. executives began to obtain more operational experience and seemed better prepared to overcome difficulties. That year, at the annual meeting, the delegates voted to create a new image and changed the old title of A.A.F.L. to the Alberta Football Association.

Charles Smail was a real leader in terms of the development of the A.F.A. He stood down as president at the end of the 1926 season so that he could become auditor of the Association and improve the financial operation of all leagues in the province. He was also on the Board of Directors of the Canadian Soccer Football Association, and served them well in many areas of responsibility.

The Calgary Albertan of July 28th, 1928, wrote of him as: "Pioneer Legislator.

The history of the game in Alberta would not be complete without reference to Charles M. Smail of Edmonton, past President and life member of the A.F.A. and second vice president of the D.F.A. Smail, it may be said without fear of contradiction, has done more than any other man to build up a strong formation for the game, not only in his own city, but in the province and beyond it, and the stable business-like basis on which it is now established in these parts is in great measure due to his foresight and unflinching effort."

The sixteen man team chosen to represent Canada at Australia in 1924 included two Alberta players, Mitch McLean of Calgary and M. Wilson of Edmonton. In 1927 the Canadian National team that went to New Zealand included two players from Alberta, Harry Poynter of Calgary and Jack Davidson of Edmonton.

The success of soccer across Alberta and the Prairies at that time can be observed from the following article taken from the Winnipeg Free Press in 1929, "One does not need to peer too closely over the records of last season's local soccer to be satisfied that from a broad angle the 'grand old game' has made a great stride in the right direction. Interest, keen throughout the season, was exemplified in the increased gates in local competition. No other branch of sport in Western Canada drew the crowds that soccer did."

During the '20s, Alberta representative teams did not fare well at National Championships. In fact the only national championship that an Alberta squad brought home was in 1922, when Calgary Hillhursts became the first Alberta team to win the "Challenge Cup". It would be 52 years before Alberta would again win the Challenge Cup.

At the local level, prestigious cups such as the Dragoon Cup in Edmonton and the Black Cup in Calgary were closely contested.

Commercial teams and leagues began to appear after the war, as industry recognized the desirability of providing recreation for the worker. Business leaders believed that the organization of football clubs and the provision of playing fields would encourage loyalty to the firm and improve the employees' physiques.

1920'S TOURING TEAMS

During the 1920's, the highlight of a soccer season continued to be the touring visits of well-known British clubs. (In those days immigration was still mainly from Britain. The influence of large-scale immigration from Continental Europe that exists today was not yet in great evidence.)

The following is a summary of several games that occurred during this period. It should be noted that, for the most part, teams simply referred to as Scotland, England or Wales on these tours were not national teams but representative teams made up of players from the first Division.

On June 12th, 1921, a touring team from Scotland played in Calgary against the Calgary All-Stars. Calgary led 1 - 0 at the half, but from there on in the game was all Scotland's as they scored five unanswered goals.

Two days later the Scots played the Edmonton All-Stars at Diamond Park. The Scottish team gave a brilliant exhibition and won by a score of 6 - 0 in a game that was marred by a downpour and very high winds.

In 1926 a team from England played three games on Alberta soil. On June 10th, 1926 the touring English All-Stars defeated a representative team of players from Lethbridge, Fernie B.C. and Medicine Hat 3 - 1 in Lethbridge. The home club managed to hold the Englishmen to a 1 - 1 draw at the half, but as was usually the case, the more experienced touring team poured it on in the second half.

Three days later, the English team defeated a Calgary All-Star team 7 - 4 in front of 6,000 wide-eyed fans. The Calgarians scored more goals against the Englishmen than any other team had in Canada, much to the delight of the large crowd. Calgary, like Lethbridge, held the visitors to a tie at the half. In fact Calgary held the lead three different times, but succumbed to the constant pressure of the "tourists".

The English side played their third and last game in Alberta on June 29th at Renfrew Park in Edmonton. The tourists were brilliant in their 5 - 0 win over the local All-Stars. The game was watched by over 3,000 fans who were appreciative of the way their team played, despite the one-sided score.

In 1927, another Scottish team toured Alberta. On June 12th they defeated the Calgary All-Stars in Calgary 6 - 0, in a game played at Victorian Park in front of 3,000 fans. On June 23rd the same Scottish eleven beat Lethbridge 4 - 0, and on June 27th they trounced an Edmonton All-Star team 10 - 1.

In 1929, it was the turn of Wales to send a team to Canada, the first time a Welsh team had come to this country. On June 12th in Calgary, nearly 5,000 spectators were on hand to watch the "Taffies" swamp the Calgary All-Stars 10 - 1. Apparently the visitors had heard of Calgary's football prowess from previous British touring teams and made sure that they fielded their strongest side.

Twelve days later, on June 24th, the Welshmen defeated the Edmonton All-Stars, 2 - 1, at Diamond Park. The Welsh tourists were extended to the limit by the local side, and many people felt that

Edmonton, who gave a wonderful display throughout, should have gained at least a draw.

E. Robbins, secretary of the Welsh Football Association, who was in charge of the tour, stated that, "the Edmonton side gave us the hardest game that we have had in Canada and on their form last night, would beat any team in the Dominion. The All-Stars would not look out of place in the second division English League."

THE DEPRESSION YEARS

The "Dirty Thirties" took their toll on soccer, as they did on everything else. In fact, economic necessity forced the national association, the D.F.A., to stop meeting annually, and from 1932 until 1939 the election of officers was conducted by mail.

There was still a high degree of participation in leagues and Sunday schools. In the rural areas soccer was an ideal sport during the hard times of the depression, due to the fact that all that was needed to play the game was a level piece of ground and a ball. This became an important factor after the onset of the depression because few farmers could afford expensive forms of recreation.

For the most part during this cash-poor era, Alberta restricted competition in soccer with Eastern Canada to national championship events. Competition was usually against Manitoba and Saskatchewan, and occasionally B.C. Relations with the east were not very good. Alberta, as well as the rest of the West, resented the East's control of Canada's economy and politics, and domination in sport. The Amateur Athletic Union of Canada was dominated by eastern officials who it was felt, constantly disregarded western pleas for revisions in the amateur code. Alberta and other western athletes felt that they were not given an equal opportunity to compete on national teams, a sentiment that can still be heard echoing from time to time.

It should be noted that between 1931 and 1937 there were very few touring teams anywhere, because of the existing world-wide depression

which made it difficult for Britain, or other countries, to send teams overseas. However, whenever a team was able to come, intense interest was generated in Alberta.

Among these visiting teams were an English team in 1931, Scotland in 1935, both the Corinthians and the Charleton Athletics from England in 1937, the Corinthians again in 1938, and the Scots once more in 1939. Recorded details of these visits are sketchy.

THE SECOND WORLD WAR YEARS

If the growth of soccer in Alberta had slowed during the depression years, it virtually came to a standstill during the war years from 1939 to 1945.

After the first year of the war, sports of all types were being forced to undergo considerable changes, including the cancellation of some leagues, a break in international competition, and an increased military role in sport.

For a period, the federal government began offering encouragement for teams and leagues to remain in operation, as it realized the importance of keeping Canadian morale high during war time. The Honorable F.F. Power, acting Minister of National Defence at the time, wrote, "There are many advantages to carrying on business as usual which far outweigh any disadvantages from the elimination of such activities."

However, as the intensity of the war increased and Canada's commitment in supplying men and materials did so as well, sport, including soccer, was deeply affected and was basically forced to "close up shop".

From 1940 to 1945, there was no Challenge cup competition and in fact, very little soccer competition of any kind around Canada because of the war effort.

On May 31, 1939 a touring Scottish side played in Calgary against an Alberta All-Star squad. Calgary, with the Scots winning by a score of 7 - 0. It would be ten years before another foreign side would step foot in Alberta.

THE POST-WAR YEARS

With the end of hostilities around the world in 1945, immigrants began to flow into Canada, and Alberta, in tremendous numbers. Among these immigrants were numerous players and enthusiasts from Europe who immediately gave the game a fresh outlook and future. Good soccer players were now coming from not only the British Isles, but from Germany, Holland, Poland, Hungary and other European countries as well. Soccer became a very important part of their immigration to Canada. "The playing field was their common bond". Even before many of them could speak English, these people were on the soccer field. By playing soccer, immigrants met new friends, and sometimes found jobs and located accomodation through contacts made through soccer.

Up to this point in time, the A.F.A. and member districts catered specifically to senior men's clubs and leagues. However, in the late 1940's and early 1950's reference was made to the need for greater emphasis on youth soccer programs. Canadian-born youth were now playing the game and requested special programs to meet their developmental needs. In 1950, Bill Entwhistle, chairman of the Football Association of Canada, Junior and Juvenile Promotion Committee, stated that minor soccer at school or otherwise, was considered by some to rank in importance "along with such stirring pastimes as marbles".

In 1949 the first touring team in ten years visited Alberta. Newcastle United from England played an Alberta All-Star side at Edmonton's Clarke Stadium on June 1st. In a game that was billed as the biggest Alberta soccer attraction in twenty years, Newcastle flashed impressive power by routing Alberta 16 - 2 in front of 4,500 fans.

Clarke Stadium was the talk of the "visitors". They found the going much to their liking and had nothing but praise for the pitch and the facility. They even went as far as to say that it was the best that they had played on in Canada. Clarke Stadium is still considered one of the best major soccer facilities in Canada, and has been the site of several full internationals.

According to Colin Jose, in his book, "The Story of Soccer in Canada", it was only after 1953 that minor soccer became elevated from a loosely organized sport on a patchwork level of interest across the country.

By 1953, considerable growth had occurred in minor soccer in Alberta, and by 1957 it had doubled again. During the period from 1953 to 1960 the Football Association of Canada, which had changed its name from the Dominion of Canada Football Association in 1951, promoted development of minor soccer through the staging of regional tournaments and by bringing regional winners together for a national championship.

One notable Albertan who should be mentioned is Jack Taylor, from Calgary. Jack's efforts were instrumental in setting up both a provincial program and a national package for youth soccer.

THE 1950'S

The years through 1959 proved to be relatively unproductive in terms of Alberta teams winning top honours at national competitions. In fact at the Challenge Cup competition, Alberta failed to reach a single final game.

Something was needed to give the game new interest, raise the standard of play and make the game more exciting for the fans. Officials of the Edmonton and Calgary District Associations considered plans for a new senior soccer league based on an inter-city format.

On July 1st, 1957, the Edmonton and District Soccer Association put forth a proposal for an Inter-city League between Calgary and Edmonton. The A.F.A. gave quick approval to the idea and after several proposals were discussed with the Calgary Association, it was agreed by all that, beginning in 1958, two all-star teams from each city would compete in the new league.

On February 7th, 1958 the league became official and provisions were made for the two All-star sides from Calgary and Edmonton to hook up in a twelve game schedule. The A.F.A. was to operate the four-team loop with the two District Associations given the right to govern the leagues. Matches involving local teams were played on Wednesday nights while away games were scheduled for weekends.

The teams that played in that initial season included:

Edmonton United
Edmonton Wanderers
Calgary Rovers
Calgary Regals

The original idea was that two games would be played each week under "Flood lights" which would be installed at Edmonton's Clarke Stadium and Calgary's Mewata stadium, with kick off times at 8:30 p.m. rather than the customary 7:00 p.m. so as to ensure more spectators.

The league helped to improve the level of local league play in both centres, as players competed to make the All-star teams.

With the increase in interest, the Alberta Inter-city League expanded in 1959 to include four teams each from Calgary and Edmonton. Under this format the league was very successful. The teams in this new format included: Calgary Royals, Calgary Hungaria, Calgary Callies, Calgary Kickers, Edmonton Victoria, Edmonton Legion, Edmonton Scottish, and Edmonton Edelweiss. The top place went to the Calgary Hungaria soccer club, with Edmonton Victoria finishing in the runner-up position.

Because of the constantly increasing number of soccer participants, clubs and leagues across Alberta and Canada, and because of the clear lack of organized structure, including rules of the game, a seventy page booklet containing all the soccer rules was published for the first time in 1958. This book clarified the game for the casual observer and became a reference for avid fans and

players, and was the first such manual of its type in Canada.

By 1959, soccer interest had grown to the point where scheduled competition was desired in places such as Hinton, the Peace River area, and Lloydminster, along with a new league, Cold Lake and District.

1950'S TOURING TEAMS

On June 7th, 1950 an English All-Star team trounced the Alberta All-Stars 9 - 0 before 4,000 fans at Edmonton's Clarke Stadium. The score was 6 - 0 at the half and the Englishmen coasted the rest of their way to victory.

June 2nd, 1951 saw Fulham F.C. come up against the Alberta All-Stars at Clarke Stadium. This first Division English team was supposed to be the major attraction but Derek Crowe, the goalkeeper for Alberta, stole the show. The Calgarian sent some 3,000 shivering soccer fans home singing his prowess as a goalkeeper. The final score on that cold day was 3 - 1 for Fulham.

Tottenham Hotspurs were the next touring team to come to Alberta. They arrived on June 7th, 1952 to play an exhibition match versus the Alberta All-Stars in Calgary. Tottenham had a reputation of being one of the most brilliant sides ever to leave the old country. The club had turned down \$100,000 to visit Argentina, preferring to come to Canada instead. In the game, Tottenham displayed the kind of wizardry which had for years made them top threats in England. They easily defeated the Alberta All-Star side by a score of 11 - 0 in front of 5,000 fans.

On June 8th, 1953, an Irish F.A. team played against Alberta. In the game, the professionals positional play and talent was too much for the gallant amateurs, as the All-Stars went under 9 - 1 at Clarke Stadium. This was the first time an Irish side had toured Alberta.

The following year saw Huddersfield town play Alberta All-Stars on May 30th. The English team

handed the Alberta All-Stars a 4 - 1 set back at Mewata Stadium before the largest crowd ever to watch a soccer game in Calgary at that time. Nearly 7,000 fans watched the English stars take a 2 - 0 first half lead, then out-score the locals 2 - 1 in the final half.

Aberdeen of the Scottish League played an exhibition game against Everton of the English League on June 13, 1956. The game was played at Clarke Stadium in front of more than 7,000 fans. Everton defeated Aberdeen by a score of 2 - 1 in a highly entertaining game. Jim Harris scored both goals for Everton.

Perhaps the tour that aroused the most interest however, was the Moscow Locomotive's visit to Alberta that same year. This was the first Soviet sports team to play in Canada and there was an air of mystery about the team and its players. The game was played in Calgary with the Albertans going down to a 6 - 4 defeat. This result was very favourable to the Alberta side, as their four goals scored was the most any team across Canada scored against the Russians.

Two touring teams come to Alberta in 1958. The first to come was Hearts of Midlothian from Scotland, and the second was Admira wien from Austria.

The press coverage of the Hearts tour was not lengthy and as a result, the only thing that is known for sure is the Scottish League First Division team trounced the Alberta All-Stars 13 - 2. Admira wien, on the other hand received good press coverage. On July 9th and 16th they played Edmonton All-Stars and Calgary All-Stars respectively.

The Austrian team was touted as the first continental soccer team to ever tour Canada, and as one journalist pointed out at the time, "Admira wien will probably be the first and last continental team to come to Alberta."

The reason behind this comment was that the Austrians played a characteristic continental style of soccer which according to an English expert, Ivan Sharpe, made the British style appear "clumsy and heavy footed." The Austrian squad drubbed the Edmonton All-Stars 8 - 0 at Renfrew Park in front of 2,500 fans. The most interesting story concerning this match, and tour for that matter, was that Admira wien almost never made it to Canada in the first place, as the plane they were on flew across the ocean with one engine completely out of order and the other "feathered".

Admira Wien played in Calgary against the Western All-Stars, a team bolstered by the addition of six players from Vancouver St. Andrews. Like Edmonton however, the western stars went down to defeat 8 - 0 in front of 3,500 fans at Mewata Stadium. According to the Calgary Herald, the Austrians improved their play 1000 % over the game in Edmonton.

The last team to visit Alberta in the 50's was West Bromwich Albion of England who came in 1959. Details of the visit were hard to come by, but it is known that the visitors trounced a local Calgary side by a score of 15 - 0.

THE 1960'S

The "Sixties" began a new era in soccer development. Not only was soccer at the minor level taking off, but women's soccer was beginning to blossom, and attention was finally given to coaching, referee development and a co-ordinated national teams program in Canada.

The 1960's also saw a great increase in the number of touring teams that visited Alberta on Canadian tours.

The first major accomplishment of this era came in January of 1960 when the Alberta football Association, through Sam Donaghey, put out the "Soccer Bulletin". The purpose of this newsletter was to keep the widely spread soccer centres of Alberta informed as to the current activities inside and outside the province. In the two years of its existence, demand for the "Alberta Soccer Bulletin" outgrew the boundaries of the province. Copies were requested world-wide as interest for issues came from the U.S.A., Europe and Africa. In 1962, the newsletter, because of its overwhelming success, changed its title to the "Canadian Soccer Bulletin" the official publication of the C.S.F.A. The first National issue was inked in May of that year under Sam Donaghey's direction.

Albertans began to show improvement in their level of play at all age groups in the 1960's. Two Albertan's, Bill McConkey and Bill Kellar, both from Calgary, were on the Canadian National team that toured the Soviet Union in 1960. Tour manager George Anderson stated that it was a pleasure to have Albertan's McConkey and Kellar on the tour and that they carried their weight at all times.

At the senior level, Alberta finally got back on the "national map" in 1962 as Edmonton Edelweiss made it to the final of the Challenge Cup. Alberta's opposition was Winnipeg Scottish who ended up winning the final 6 - 0.

Also that year, the Inter-City League, which had been formed six years previously, disbanded. Recognizing the need for a top level, "prestigious" Senior League to keep soccer interest high, three Edmontonians, Bob Hartlied, Jack Meys and Jeno Balogh, conceptualized a Western Canadian Senior League and lobbied contacts in other cities to try to bring the concept to reality. On January 26th, 1963, interested parties from Regina, Saskatoon and Edmonton met at the King Edward Hotel in Edmonton to discuss the formation of the new league.

Consensus was reached quickly, an executive elected, with Sam Donaghey as the first President, and the Western Canada Soccer League was a reality.

Within a few short weeks Calgary and Lethbridge had also joined the league.

For the record, the teams who participated that first year included in order of finish: Regina Concordia, Edmonton Hungaria, Edmonton Excelsior, Edmonton Rangers, Calgary Croatia, Regina Internationals, Edmonton Edelweiss, Saskatoon Concordia, Saskatoon Hollondia, and Lethbridge Hungaria.

By 1964 the League, committed to produce top calibre Canadian players, was planning to expand to Winnipeg and Vancouver, which would give it a true western flavour. As well, each city would have just one team representative in the league,

instead of several as was the case in 1963.

In its heyday in the late 60's, the W.C.S.L. was comprised of Edmonton Canadians, Calgary Kickers, Regina Concordia, Saskatoon United, Winnipeg Internationals and Vancouver Spartans.

Though the W.C.S.L. failed to survive the 1970's, primarily due to rapidly escalating travel costs, it did provide soccer fans across western Canada with excellent soccer action as well as providing a higher plateau for promising young players to shoot for.

In 1965, Sam Donaghey became a vice-president of the Canadian Soccer Association and Harry Skidmore became president of the A.F.A.

That same year, the A.F.A., in an attempt to develop and upgrade its coaching and playing development programs, appointed Stuart Robbins as the Provincial Coaching Director.

The scope of the Association by 1965 had grown to include league competitions, cup competition, leadership clinics and supervisory responsibilities. District Associations affiliated with the A.F.A. included the Edmonton District Football Association, Calgary Soccer Association, Southern Alberta Soccer Football Association, and the Crows Nest Pass Association. There were a total of 468 players on 36 clubs with 30 active reserve teams with an additional 300 players.

Youth participation was listed at over 3500.

Participation at the recreational level and adult club level included 500 more individuals each. These figures, included with the 70 players from

the Whitehorse (Yukon League) added up to an approximate involvement of 5,000 players in Alberta.

According to the minutes of the 1965 A.G.M., from whence the preceding statistics were taken, the A.F.A. was faced with certain needs. They included the need for leadership clinics at both administrative and activity levels, reference materials and audio-visual aids, effective communication with all public, private and volunteer organizations working in the recreational field and new programs for rural areas.

In October, 1966, Sam Donaghey founded the "Canadian Soccer News", which was printed in Edmonton, and which succeeded the "Canadian Soccer Bulletin." The new magazine contained photographs and other items of interest from the history of Canadian soccer, together with pen sketches and photographs of people involved at all levels in the current game.

An important event in 1966 was the hosting of the first ever Regional Clinic for Canadian Soccer Coaches at the University of Alberta on November 11th, 12th, and 13th. Forty-six coaches from Alberta, Saskatchewan and British Columbia gathered to learn the trends in modern coaching. Terry Weatherall, Director of coaching for Canada and Stuart Robbins, A.F.A. Director of coaching, were the instructors. Topics discussed included soccer conditioning training, skills and techniques, laws, coaching practice and leadership psychology.

The number of competitions at the youth level increased dramatically during the '60's. In 1965, the Calgary Minor Soccer Association hosted, for

the first of many times, the largest boys invitational soccer tournament of its kind in western Canada. Over the years the number of teams that have been invited has varied. In 1985, the 20th Anniversary of the tournament, 85 teams were invited. Out of these, almost 60 were from outside of Calgary. The tournament was initially staged over a two day period, but in the 1980's it changed to a three day affair because of the larger number of teams participating.

In the first ever National Youth Soccer Tournament, held in Vancouver in October '66, Alberta entered an Under - 18 team versus B.C. and Saskatchewan for the Western Championship. Even though the Alberta representative failed to win the Western Championship, it was still a giant step forward in the development of Alberta's minor soccer program.

That same year an Alberta Team once again made it to the Finals of the Challenge Cup. The tournament that year was held in Calgary. Toronto Ballymena United defeated the host Calgary Buffalo Kickers 1 - 0 in the final game. A goal midway through the first half was the difference between the two clubs. The tournament was run very smoothly, but the size of the crowds was quite disappointing.

On June 21st and 24th, 1967, Olympic qualifying games were scheduled for Edmonton, between the Canadian National team and the Cuba. Normally such international contests are played on a home-and-home basis, but Cuba had agreed to play the two games in Canada with neutral referees. The matches were originally slated to be played in Montreal, but the C.S.F.A. was busy hosting a professional tournament there already, and Edmonton was chosen as the new site. The City of

Edmonton was so honoured to have been chosen, that Mayor V.M. Dantzer declared the week of June 19th - 25th, 1967 as "Soccer Week in Edmonton".

In the June 21st game, the Canadian National Team, together for only the second time, tied the Cubans 1 - 1, in front of 4,000 people at Clarke Stadium.

The second game on June 24th, saw the Cubans win a closely contested game by the score of 2 - 1. That score, together with the 1 - 1 draw, gave Cuba a 3 - 2 total goal score in the two games, and eliminated Canada from further contention for the 1968 Olympics.

The opening of the Kinsmen Fieldhouse on January 7th, 1968, gave Edmonton its first indoor soccer facility. Jenő Balogh, who was later to serve as president of the A.F.A., organized the first indoor soccer league in Edmonton. Organized league indoor soccer has been growing by leaps and bounds ever since, and is now played by both males and females of all age groups, not only in Edmonton but in most of the other major centres in Alberta.

1960'S TOURING TEAMS

The 1960's saw a considerable increase in the number touring teams visiting Alberta.

First to arrive were the Hearts of Midlothian, who were then, in 1960, the Scottish Champions. On June 8th, they played the Northern All-Stars at Clarke Stadium in front of 5,000 fans. The Hearts whipped the All-Stars in the end, 6 - 2, but the Albertans were commended by the Scottish side on their improvement from two years previous. Tommy Walker, one of the all time international greats, who was at the time manager-secretary of the Hearts, said after the match, "There is a big improvement in their conditioning and they seem to have greater cohesion." The tour manager, George Anderson, who had toured Canada with the visitors termed the game "very good. One of the best on the tour".

The Northern All-Stars players were from Edmonton and area and included: Moris Palon, Jack Toering, Herman Nipp, Hank Van Leersun, Jackie Wallace, Bruce Aves, Bernard Aves, Bill Sydney, Rupert Goldberger, Denis Bradley, Johnny Clarke, Gehart Shwertz, Bill Hughes, Terry Smith and Dennis Norman Brown.

Later that year, on August 20th, before 4000 wildly enthusiastic spectators, a Calgary All-Star team defeated a touring Russian Team 5 - 4 in a superb victory. Dune Scott, reporting for the Calgary Herald wrote, "This has to rate as the greatest soccer victory in Calgary - even in the province - since Calgary Hillhurst won the Dominion Football Championship in 1922."

The All-Stars, after spotting Zenit of Leningrad

the first goal in the opening minute of play, bottled up the Russians for a 4 - 2 first half lead. The locals built up their lead to 5 - 2 and then held off the charging Russians to win the game 5 - 4. The players on the Calgary side were selected from the four Inter-city League clubs. Calgary goal scorers included Fred Bundschok, Herb Kreis, Wolfgang Kellar and two by Liszka. The loss, coupled with another one in Vancouver led the Russian Brass to call off the rest of the tour.

On July 1st, 1961, the Edmonton All-Stars met Toronto City Soccer Club at Clarke Stadium. Stanley Mathews, the "wizard" of English soccer, was the star player and main threat of Toronto City, top team of the then, newly-formed Eastern Canada Professional Soccer League.

Mathews, along with other greats, Johny Haynes and Danny Blanchflower, helped the touring club defeat the Edmonton All-Stars by a score of 2 - 1.

To their credit, the local side came up with a strong enough defence to almost tie the professional side. The All-Stars, before 5000 fans held the highly touted Toronto squad to a scoreless draw for 69 minutes and were only defeated in the final three minutes of play.

August 26th, Toronto City paid its second visit to Clarke Stadium, defeating the locals 4 - 2, in a spirited game in front of 4,700 fans. Roy Frost scored both goals for Edmonton.

Two days later, at Calgary, the Toronto City club defeated the Calgary All-Stars 3 - 1 before a crowd of close to 2,000 at Mewata Stadium.

Toronto was slow starting, but controlled the play

after the first half. Calgary had early control but found themselves down by two goals after 32 minutes. However, Calgary came right back when high scoring forward Freddie Bundschoks scored on a header from Zigfried Overmeier's corner kick. A third Toronto Goal took it beyond Calgary's reach. Bundschoks, Bill McKnokey and Herb Kreis turned in stalwart games for Calgary.

On May 30th of 1962, Sheffield United played the "Edmonton Combines". Close to 4,000 fans watched the English First Division side defeat the combines 7 - 0 at Clarke Stadium. It was a relatively easy win for the visitors, as most of the Edmonton side showed a lack of conditioning. On the positive side for the locals, Bert Goldberger, Hans Schweigeri, Heinz Simon and Oscar Schendel scarcely looked out of place against the visitors. Also that year, Edmonton Edelweiss played host to Meiderich of West Germany, at that time second in the West German League. On the field, the Edmonton team put on a spirited display for the 5,000 fans at Clarke Stadium, but

Meiderich won the game 4 - 1. Oscar Schendel scored the lone Edmonton goal.

The following year saw the first South American team come to Alberta. On June 19th, 1963, Bangu of Brazil played the Edmonton All-Stars. The game was played at Clarke Stadium and 4,000 fans watched the Edmonton side hold a team of the worlds top professionals to two goals in the first 45 exciting minutes while scoring once themselves. However, the final score was 9 - 1 for Bangu as the 1960 World Soccer Tournament victors poured it on mercilessly in the second half. John Clarke scored for the locals.

This was to be the last exhibition match of this type in Albert for five years.

On June 18th, 1968, Borussia Dortmund of West Germany played Edmonton Victoria Canadians. The game was hardly memorable as the West Germans thoroughly embarrassed the Western Canada Soccer League Club 11 - 0 in front of 3,500 observers.

Four days later, Dortmund played the Calgary Buffalo Kickers at McMahon Stadium, winning 4 - 2 in front of 3,500 fans. The tourists largely dominated the play, but the Kickers strong defence and goalkeeper Bus Fomradas kept the score fairly close. Johnny Schepers and Willie Steinrotter scored for Calgary.

European Soccer Cup winners, Inter-Bratislava from Czechoslovakia visited Alberta, defeating Edmonton Canadians 4 - 1 at Clarke Stadium before 2,500 spectators. Despite being beaten four times by the visiting sharpshooters, Canadians goalkeeper, Bruce Ballan, turned in a show case performance for the Edmonton faithful.

THE 1970'S - YEARS OF RAPID GROWTH

Hampered in past years by lack of funding, suddenly the promise of Alberta Government Grants to assist sports organizations sparked a remarkable upturn in soccer's development within the province. Funds became available for leadership development, team training, loan service (film and stopwatches), team travel assistance, assistance in hosting provincial and national championships and special project or administrative assistance.

To develop basic youth soccer skills, the National Soccer Skills Contest was born in 1970. Provincial and inter-provincial competitions in four age categories for boys and three for girls lead to a national Championship and the U-16 North American Club Championships.

The early 1970's saw a gradual development of the technical aspects of soccer. Stuart Robbins, the A.F.A. Director of Coaching, began formulating new programs such as the Provincial Select Player Program. As a result of programs such as this, the standard of minor soccer improved dramatically around the province.

In 1972, Jim Fleming became the new Director of Coaching, with Bert Goldberger as his assistant.

Another aspect of the game that underwent a huge change in the '70's in Alberta was the growth of girls and womens soccer. Up to the early 1970's girls were still, for the most part, playing on boys teams, without their own league. However, in 1973, an all girls league was formed in Edmonton. From that point on girls and womens soccer flourished, as new leagues sprang up all over the

province.

By 1973, government funding had increased again, as the Department of Culture, Youth and Recreation supported soccer as both sport and recreation, thus making it easier to obtain grant monies under a wider range of categories.

Not only was government funding and interest blossoming at the provincial level, but according to a 1973 Canadian Minor Soccer Association Newsletter, "The Federal Government will give soccer greater financial treatment leading at least until the '76 Olympics". It was finally acknowledged by the senior level of government that soccer had massive participation potential. In fact it was former Health Minister John Munro who was quoted as saying, "there is increasing awareness by government that soccer may be the very sport we're looking for to involve Canada's young people. Soccer is priority number one with emphasis on 18 years and under."

During 1973 Bert Goldberger took over the Coaching Director position of the A.F.A., taking an Under - 21 Provincial Select team to the Canada Games for the first time.

The Canadian Soccer Association formally recognized indoor soccer in 1973, helping to create an even larger boom in soccer participation.

February of 1974 saw Eckhard Krautzun, head coach of the Canadian National Team, make a scouting visit to Edmonton, to watch thirty-three Alberta Under-19 boys display their talent. He felt that Alberta players had the basic talent, but the lack of top competition was visible.

In September, 1974, the Alberta Minor Soccer Association was formally incorporated to serve as the official governing, regulating and operating body for the game of soccer at the minor level within the province of Alberta. One of its main goals was to organize the province into districts for minor soccer, each of which would form its own District Association. They included, Calgary and District, Edmonton and District, Medicine Hat and District, Lethbridge and District, Red Deer and District, and Cold Lake (operating within the Municipal District of Bonnyville.)

In 1974, the Alberta Football Association changed its name to the Alberta Soccer Association.

Alberta Senior representatives, Calgary Springer Kickers won the Challenge Cup in 1974. The final game saw Alberta defeat Ontario's Windsor Italia 2 - 1 to take the cup back to Alberta for the first time since 1922. It had been a long wait but Alberta finally had made it back to the top in Canadian senior amateur soccer.

The following year Alberta hosted the Challenge Cup finals for the first time. The Calgary committee under the chairmanship of Mr. Jack Hargreaves spent endless hours planning to ensure that the event was successful.

With defending champions Calgary Springer Kickers already knocked out of contention, it was up to Edmonton Ital to carry Alberta's flag. However, Alberta lost out in the early going, and London Boxing Club of Victoria defeated St. Lawrence Laurentians 3 - 1 in the final.

In January, 1975 at the A.G.M. of the Alberta Soccer Association, it was agreed that the major executive positions of both the A.S.A. and the

A.M.S.A. be merged, and all operations be under a two-pronged administrative structure, as follows:

President
Secretary
Treasurer

Don Taylor
Frank Fletcher
Kim Zaun

MINOR SOCCER

SENIOR SOCCER

Vice Pres.	Jack Taylor	Vice Pres.	Jim Fleming
Director	Ron Almond	Director	John Zold
Director	Alex Cathcart	Director	Jeno Balogh

The programs and general operations of each of the Minor and Senior arms were to be conducted independently under the respective Vice Presidents.

The reasons for amalgamation were to promote soccer more effectively by providing a common identity through one administration and avoiding any unnecessary duplication in service, to provide greater coordination and service in the areas of player, coaching and referee development, and to improve communications within the province.

With the amalgamation came the need for paid employees. A new part-time paid Technical Director's position was created, with Bert Goldberger in the chair.

On March 15th, 1975, Bernie Forde was appointed Referee-in-chief, succeeding Jim Fleming. At that time, there were only 14 registered referees in Alberta. Ten years later, Alberta would have 594 registered referees, a growth of 2356%.

Calgary hosted the Western Canada Youth Club

Championships in October, 1975. In all, 17 teams participated, 5 each from Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, plus 2 from B.C. Alberta was the "bridesmaid" in every age group.

Alberta placed second to Manitoba in the U-10's, second to B.C. in the U-12's and U-14's and second to Manitoba in the U-16's and U-18's.

Also that year, the first official girls Provincial Championships were held. Participation was limited to Edmonton and Calgary in the midget and bantam age groups, but a four team final involving Edmonton, Calgary, Norlite, and Strathcona Associations was arranged for the Peewees. The finals were played in Edmonton, with a Calgary team winning the midget title, and Crestwood of Edmonton taking the honours in both the Bantam and Pee wee Categories.

Also in 1975, a new senior league, the Alberta Major Soccer League, began operations, with Peter Comer as its first Commissioner. In its first year the league was made up of teams from Edmonton, Red Deer and Calgary with plans to eventually expand to Lethbridge and Medicine Hat. The A.M.S.L. was an amateur league fed by the Alberta Youth League. Clubs in the A.M.S.L. that first year included; Calgary Springer Kickers Soccer Club, Calgary Croatia Soccer Club, Calgary Callies Soccer Club, Red Deer Soccer Club, Edmonton Italia Soccer Club, Edmonton Scottish Soccer Club, and Edmonton Victoria Soccer Club.

Edmonton Scottish won the first League Championship and Calgary Croatia won the Provincial Cup, defeating Edmonton Ital by a score of 6 - 1 in a two game home and home series that inaugural year.

Lethbridge Royals joined the league in 1976.

Calgary Callies were the League winners that year. Johny Gattens was the League's Commissioner in 1976.

Calgary Blizzards Soccer Club and Edmonton North West United joined the league in 1977. That year the League Championship was won by Calgary Springers. The Provincial Cup was contested by Lethbridge Royals and Edmonton N.W. United, with Lethbridge coming up with a 3 - 0 advantage in the two game total point series.

Edmonton Ital Canadians won the League Championship in 1978, and also played Calgary Callies for the cup. Callies won 1 - 0.

Bill Gilhespy served as Commissioner from 1977 through 1979, stepping down to become A.S.A. President.

In 1976 Alberta and P.E.I. were the only provinces without a full time staff member of some kind. At the council meeting held at the Capri Hotel in Red Deer on March 20th, 1976, a discussion was raised that the idea of having a full-time Technical Director be dropped in support of the concept of a full-time Administrator. However, it was felt that the development of the technical aspects would generate enough momentum to warrant an administrator at a later date.

Jack Taylor, Vice President of Minor Programs, summed it up by saying that "our prime objective over the past few years has been to acquire a full-time Technical Director. We have been very fortunate during this time to have Bert Goldberger. During this time Bert and his assistants have been travelling the province

setting up clinics wherever and whenever they were requested. A full-out campaign to acquire a paid person should and must be the aim of this Association".

Bernie Forde introduced the first Referee Assessment Program in 1976.

In 1976, the Calgary Minor Soccer Association hosted for the first time, a large girls invitational soccer tournament. This annual tournament has grown and become quite successful over the years. In 1985, the tournament's 10th anniversary year, 55 teams participated.

In June 1st, 1977, Bert Goldberger became a full-time Technical Director, with upgraded responsibilities, including the Coaching Development Program, technical publications, budget submissions, Player Development Programs, audio-visual aids, the National Skills Program and Technical Reports on Programs.

Bert realized that Alberta, in order to become more competitive, needed more than the 100 certified coaches in the province at that time. As a result of his programs, Alberta had over 4200 certified coaches in 1985.

The A.S.A. began to turn its coaching development focus to the rural areas. The major urban centres in the province were already progressing well in coaching development, and now with frequent requests coming in from rural areas for assistance in setting up leagues and teams, coaching development was needed outside the major centres.

Also in 1977, the A.S.A. introduced an International touring coach program, designed to expose Albertans to top calibre coaching. Roger

Thompson, the youth coach of Arsenal in England, was the first of many coaches to tour Alberta. He conducted practical and technical sessions and gave lectures on modern soccer. It was the first time in Alberta soccer history that a coach of such high calibre was available as a resource to Albertans.

In addition, Bert Goldberger that year implemented the Summer Soccer School contest. Mark Biscue of Medicine Hat won the National U-16 "Kick-Me" contest in 1977.

With Bert now on staff full-time, there was a need for an office to work from. Up until this time, the A.S.A. stored all records, and usually held its meetings, at the home of the President. Thus, when Government-donated office space became available at the Percy Page Centre in St. Albert in 1977, the A.S.A. gratefully moved in.

In October 1977, Edmonton hosted the first-ever Western Canadian Girl's Soccer championships. Teams from Alberta, B.C., and Saskatchewan participated in three different categories, U-14, U-16, and U-18. Edmonton Blue Jays won the U-16 category and Calgary Willow Ridge won the U-14 category.

In 1978, Alberta U-16 Boys Champions, Edmonton Victoria, went to the Western Canadian segment of the North American Club Championships in Brandon and came out victorious, to advance to the Nationals.

At the Canadian Championships, the Albertans

defeated Quebec and Ontario, to become national champions. From here they proceeded to The North American final against the American Champion from St. Louis. Despite a 0 - 0 half-time draw, the Missourians eventually won the game by a score of 3 - 0. However, Alberta's showing was a very creditable one.

Also in 1978, for the first time in Alberta's history, a provincial select team played for a Canadian championship. Alberta, who had won the U-16 Western Canada Select Competition in Regina by defeating B.C. 2 - 0, went on to St. Catherines, where they unfortunately lost the Canadian final 2 - 0 to Ontario. Still, it was a great achievement.

By the end of 1978, it was noticeable that the Technical Director was becoming overworked, spending more and more time on general administration duties, which was taking away from the over-all technical program. The Association identified the need for a full-time Executive/Administrative Director to handle these tasks, but it would be three more years before the staff would be expanded.

Ross Ongaro, a forward with Edmonton Ital Canadians, became the first Alberta Youth Player to represent Canada, in the 1979 Youth World Cup in Japan.

As an upgrading of the Player Development Program, the A.S.A. set up Youth Enrichment camps that year. These were winter camps for young athletes who had shown above-average talent, and were designed to help provide the nucleus for provincial youth select teams. A.S.A. President Jim Fleming remarked, "this marks a very important step in the Association's program to become more competitive in national select team competitions".

1970'S TOURING TEAMS

During the early years of the '70's there were few foreign touring teams that came to Alberta. The popularity of such visits seemed to be slowly dwindling. However, with the arrival of the New York Cosmos and the Great Pele in 1976, and the subsequent professional soccer teams that played out of Edmonton, international exhibition matches once again became popular as the games for the first time pitted Alberta professional teams against foreign professionals.

The first exhibition match of this era took place in July 1972, when I.S.C. Goettinger played Calgary Springer Kickers at Glenmore Stadium in Calgary. An interesting side note recalls that the Germans' uniforms could not be located at Calgary Airport and they had to play in their track suits. The game finished as a 1 - 1 draw. Horst Becker was the marksman for Calgary. The game was played before only a thousand fans.

In June of the following year, Vittoria of Portugal played the Edmonton Selects at Clarke Stadium. Over 5,000 people were on hand to witness the All-Stars, despite a courageous performance, go down to a 4 - 1 defeat. When one considered that Vittoria was a world class professional team, and were constant contenders for the professional Division I title in Portugal, then the local team was well satisfied.

In 1976, the New York Cosmos from the North American Soccer League were invited to play Canada's National team in an exhibition match in Edmonton. The man considered to be the world's best soccer player - Pele, was playing for the Cosmos, and it was felt that his presence alone

would generate a great amount of interest in the game. The A.S.A. asked Pele do a number of autograph sessions for kids playing in minor soccer leagues, and he gladly complied.

The game, played before 14,826 fans at Clarke Stadium ended in a 1 - 1 draw. Buzz Parsons scored for Canada, while the great Giorgio Chinaglia scored for the Cosmos.

On June 16th, 1977, Eintracht Braunschweig of West Germany visited Calgary to play Calgary Springer Kickers.

The Springer Kickers gave an excellent showing against the West Germans, losing 2 - 1, but showing conclusively that local players could play with the best. Equally impressive was that, with over 9,000 in attendance, it was the largest crowd ever to watch a soccer match in Calgary.

"I was really surprised by the courage and morale of the Kickers," said Braunschweig coach Banko Zebec. "They gave us a much different game than we expected. I had to bring in my more experienced players in the second half."

On May 7th, 1978, Stuttgart visited Calgary to play the Springer Kickers. Stuttgart won, 3 - 0. Despite the score, Stuttgart coach Juergen Sundermann said, "We were surprised by the quality of the Calgary team." The game was played at McMahon Stadium before 5,200 fans.

On May 18th, 1978, Hibernian from Scotland played the Calgary All-Stars in Calgary before 4,000 fans. The final score was 4 - 1 for the Scots. The Calgary team, made up of local A.M.S.L. and first division players, trailed by only 2 - 1 at the half, but the "Hibs" controlled the second

half and added two more goals.

On May 28th, the same Hibernian team travelled to Edmonton to take on the Edmonton All-Stars. The Scottish side, in front of 12,000 spectators at Clarke Stadium, poured in 6 first half goals enroute to a 7 - 0 shellacking of the locals. Still, the fans realized they had watched an incredibly talented professional side and were thoroughly entertained.

THE 1980's

In August 1980, Renfrew Park in Calgary was the site of the Prairie Under-18 select finals which included teams from Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Alberta. Alberta overcame a shaky start to win the regional playoffs and qualify for the national finals in Newfoundland, by defeating Manitoba 3-0 and drawing Saskatchewan 3-3. At the Nationals, the Albertan team placed 3rd.

Also in 1980, the Sherwood Park Bantam AA team captured the Western Canada Championships.

1980 saw continued growth in ladies soccer. That year, there were 35 teams throughout the province, and the A.S.A. organized the first provincial ladies competition. Edmonton Ajax defeated Calgary Grasshoppers to win the first ladies provincial title.

The A.M.S.L. was officially disbanded on November 9th, 1980. In the final year of competition, Edmonton Scottish defeated southern champions Calgary Springers by a score of 2 - 0, to become Provincial Cup winners. Lucky Stipanov was the last Commissioner of the league.

Also in 1980, Alberta hosted the Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Soccer Association at Banff. This provided an opportunity for many of the A.S.A. members to meet soccer people from all over the nation. Jim Fleming was appointed as the C.S.A.'s Professional Director at this meeting.

In 1980, three Edmonton-area players from the A.S.A. select team program were drafted by professional clubs. Pasquale DeLuca and Norm Odinga were drafted by the Edmonton Drillers, and Darren Poole was taken by the Vancouver Whitecaps.

1981 was the year that the A.S.A. solved many of its

administrative problems by hiring Kevan Pipe, a former Youth Co-ordinator with the C.S.A., as the first Executive Director. Responsible for creating new sources of revenue, Kevan secured several new sponsors in his first year, adding \$21,000.00 hard dollars to A.S.A. coffers.

Also that year, in an effort to better control the Summer School program, Jay Dow became the Association's first Program Director, on a part-time basis. This freed the Technical Director to concentrate more of his efforts on other programs of the Association. That year, the A.S.A. made large gains in rural area participation in the Soccer School Program.

On October 11th, the host Calgary Kickers played in the final game of the 1981 National Challenge Cup. However, on a miserable afternoon at Glenmore Park, Toronto Ciociaro edged the Springer Kickers 2-1 to claim the title. Springer Kickers coach, Oscar Faoro commented, "We were a little panicky, trying to play forward too quickly." All in all, other than the weather, the competition went smoothly and the organizing committee in Calgary deserved credit for putting on a first class tournament.

1981 was the year that the Select Player Program achieved its greatest successes. "Alberta's Select Soccer Program has had a pinnacle of success," wrote Edmonton Sun journalist Con Griwkosky, in reference to the fact that three of four teams involved showed outstanding results. The provincial U-18 team won the bronze medal, the provincial U-21 team earned the silver at the Canada Summer Games and the U-16 team became the first ever from this province to win a gold medal, with a 3-1 win over Quebec.

At the minor level, the Cities Cup competition began

with the object of establishing a Provincial League for the boys U-14, U-16 and U-18 age groups. A four team league was established, two teams from the North and two from the south, with games played on three different weekends in a tournament atmosphere.

Many Alberta players were finally being chosen to participate at national team training camps by 1981, a tribute to the quality of the Player Development Program.

During the winter of 1981, indoor soccer in Calgary "took off". Games were played at the Memorial Drive Arena, more affectionately known as "the Bubble". During that first year, there were 30 minor and senior mens teams utilizing the single field facility. After its second year of use, the Memorial Drive Arena became too small, as many more teams wished to be able to play. Thus, the ATCO Centre, a renovated airport hanger with two indoor fields, was opened in 1983, operated by the Calgary Minor Soccer Association.

In the first year in the new building, 135 teams played indoor soccer, now including senior women, "old timers" and girls. Today there are nearly 200 teams playing at the centre and the arenas are run close to capacity.

The major Alberta Competitions of 1982 included the hosting of the Western Canadian Women's Championship, and the hosting of the Schreyer Cup, emblematic of the National All-Star Championship.

The first ever Labatt's Cup, emblematic of Western Canadian supremacy in Senior Women's soccer took place at Victoria Soccer Club at Edmonton in 1982. The teams in competition for the cup included: George's Angels of Edmonton, Burnaby Edmonds of B.C., Regina SNUKX and Winnipeg Grant Park Challenge.

The highlight of the senior program that year was the Angels Soccer Club of Edmonton. They won the right to represent Alberta, and the West, for the first ever National Women's cup, The Jubilee Shield. They travelled to Ontario and thrashed the Eastern Canadian Champions, London, Ontario, 4-0.

The U-18 Alberta Selects captured a gold at the National Championships with a 2-1 win over Quebec. At the Youth Club level, the Edmonton Strikers made it all the way to the National Finals.

New programs that were introduced in 1982 included U-14 boys camps, a National Championship for women, and the advent of provincial "C" level Championships for both boys and girls.

At the senior level, in September of 1982 the A.S.A. staged the first senior mens and womens "Soccer Festival" in Calgary.

That year, Medicine Hat hosted the Schreyer Cup, emblematic of the National Senior All-Star Championship. The competition was awarded to Medicine Hat in recognition of the remarkable growth of soccer there. The tournament featured six provincial all-star teams competing in two groups in round-robin play. The winner of group one played the winner of group two in the final. Unfortunately, the Alberta team's performance was well below its potential.

By 1983, no less than five of the A.S.A.'s Directors were serving directly on various commities of the Canadian Soccer Association. Edmontonian Jim Fleming was now the President of the C.S.A..

As was the case the previous year, the Edmonton Angels carried Alberta's colours to National honours in '83.

They defended their title by sweeping past Quebec 3-0 and Nova Scotia 6-0 to capture their second National Womens Championship.

On a sad note, the A.S.A. stopped the International Coaching Program, as government funding ceased. Holger Osieck was the last coach to come to Canada under this program.

By 1984, 33,000 youth and 5,000 senior players were registered in Alberta.

The Association's financial capabilities continued to expand despite tough economic times. During the year the A.S.A. Board of Directors approved an increase in the staffing of the Association for the first time since 1981. It was felt that in order to cope with the ever-growing demands of the program, it was necessary to convert the existing part-time Program Director's position to a full-time position. The Association also took on a full-time office support clerk.

One of the highlights of 1984 was the introduction of the first ever Provincial Indoor Championships, held during the Easter weekend at Calgary's ATCO Centre where seven separate titles were up for grabs.

The A.S.A., in conjunction with the Calgary Minor Soccer Association, also hosted the National U-16 boys and girls Petro-Canada Club Championships in '84. This tournament proved to be a great success, and six clubs went on to represent Alberta in the various national Petro Canada Cup competitions, with Calgary Chinooks winning the Silver Medal in the U-16 National Girls finals.

In the summer of 1984, the under-19 Select team, the team that would represent Alberta in the 1985 Canada

Summer Games, toured England to gain top-notch competition experience. The tour was highly successful, with our youngsters coming up with a record of 2 wins, 3 draws and 1 loss. The tour results were as follows:

Alberta 0 - Emerson Park Old Boys 0
Alberta 3 - Watford Youth Team 0
Alberta 6 - West Ham Youth Team 1
Alberta 3 - Crystal Palace Youth Team 3
Alberta 4 - Corinthians F.C. 4
Tottenham Youth Team 5 - Alberta 1

The Alberta side received good press coverage in England. The Albertans were openly cheered by English fans on frequent occasions. It should be noted that the Corinthians side that our youngsters played were the club descendants of the first touring team to visit Alberta in 1911.

The major highlight of 1984 came once again from the Edmonton Angels Soccer Club. At the Nationals in Quebec, they defeated first Saskatchewan, then Ontario, and in the final defeated B.C. 1-0, on a goal by Lynn Gordy, who scored from a penalty kick at the 18th minute. This was the year when 8 of 11 starters for the Angels were injured so winning the national title for the 3rd straight year was an incredible feat.

Edmonton Ital-Canadians won the bronze medal at the '84 Challenge Cup competition in Victoria.

Victor Bidzinski assumed the presidency of the A.S.A. in January 1985, succeeding Bill Gilhespy, who stepped down to concentrate on the development of a Canadian professional league.

The Association purchased Jim Morrison's province-wide

newspaper, "Soccer Express", and converted it to the official publication of the A.S.A..

At the 1985 Canada Summer Games, the gold medal game saw the U-21 Alberta Selects up against a select team from Quebec. Alberta won the gold by a score of 1-0, on a goal by Charles O'Toole of Sherwood Park. This was a great achievement for the select soccer program and soccer in general in Alberta. Alberta's coach was John Walker, who was also an assistant coach of the Edmonton Brick Men pro side.

The National Senior Soccer Championships were held in Edmonton in 1985, and were hosted by the A.S.A. and the Edmonton & District Soccer Association. Defending champions, Edmonton Angels won the Jubilee Shield for an unprecedented 4th consecutive time, defeating a stubborn Richmond B.C. Korner Kicks 1-0 in double overtime.

Edmonton Ital-Canadians won the bronze medal in the Challenge Cup competition for the second straight year.

Gary Sampley became Executive Director of the A.S.A., replacing Kevan Pipe, who left Alberta to become Executive Director of the C.S.A..

1980's TOURING TEAMS

The advent of the 80's saw an increased popularity in exhibition matches involving touring teams. In addition, exhibition games between Canadian National teams and foreign sides became a popular way to prepare for top calibre competitions, and many of these games were hosted in Alberta.

The first of the international exhibition matches of this era was quite a unique one, in that it pitted four international squads together without a single Canadian representative team.

The 1980 Red Leaf Cup Tournament involved Premier or First Division teams from Scotland, Brazil, Italy, and France competing for \$350,000.00 in prize money, the largest purse ever offered for a soccer competition anywhere in the World. The tournament utilized the standard point system to determine placing for the Championship round. The contending teams included Ascoli, Italy; Nancy, France; Botofogo, Brazil; and Glasgow Rangers, Scotland.

On June 13th at Calgary's McMahon Stadium, Botofogo defeated Ascoli 2-1 in the first game of the day and Glasgow and Nancy later tied 3-3, before 11,872 fans.

Other matches in the tournament were played in Toronto and Montreal. On June 22nd in Hamilton, Ascoli defeated Glasgow 2-0 to take home the large cash purse.

On June 27th, 1980, Banks O'Dee of Scotland arrived in Edmonton to play the Edmonton Selects. They easily defeated the host side 4-0 at Clarke Stadium. The score probably didn't reflect the true calibre of the local side, as the game was only the third time the Edmontonians had played together, while the Scots had just come off their regular league season.

From Edmonton, Banks O'Dee travelled south to Calgary to take on the fledgling Calgary Outlaws. The game was played in front of only 355 fans at McMahon Stadium on July 2nd and Banks O'Dee won the game 4-1. The newly formed Outlaws didn't play the game as a team but rather as individuals which was the reason for the lop-sided result.

Later that year, on September 17th, the Canadian National team played host to a team from New Zealand, at Edmonton's Commonwealth Stadium, where the Canadians managed a 3-0 victory, in front of 1,960 fans. The New Zealanders, held their own in the first half, but disappeared completely in the second half. The Canadians, who were playing as a team for only the second time, showed flashes of good soccer but generally played below their capacity.

The next test for Canada came on October 4th, when they went up against four time N.A.S.L. champion New York Cosmos at Calgary's McMahon Stadium. The game ended in a 1-1 draw, as the Cosmos saved embarrassment by scoring the equalizer with just 13 seconds remaining. Dale Mitchell scored for Canada and Francois Van der Elst for the Cosmos. Canadian coach Barrie Clarke was quite content with the tie and pleased with the potential shown by his team.

The last match of 1980, on October 8th, pitted the Canadian National Team against Sporting Cristal from Peru, a game more memorable because of the weather than the play. A gale rainstorm combined with bitter cold and some snow turned the game into a farce and most of the 4,000 fans at McMahon Stadium went home by the half. Referee Dino Soupliotis suspended the match in the 15th minute of the second half. Branko Segota's goal for Canada was extraordinary, in that the official had to hold the ball still at the penalty

spot due to the high winds.

In June 1983, Canada played a three-game series in Canada against the Scottish National Team. The second game of the series, played before nearly 11,000 fans at Edmonton's Commonwealth Stadium, saw the determined Canadians go down 2-0 to the more experienced Scots. Pasquale DeLuca of Edmonton played for Canada that day, and at the time of writing this document, was a member of Canada's World-Cup bound team.

A few short days before the start of the 1984 Olympic Games, Canada played Chile in a pre-Olympic exhibition match, before 6100 fans in Edmonton's Clarke Stadium. The game, a defensive stand-off, ended in a 0-0 draw, and so it went into the FIFA record book. However, inasmuch as this was the 75th anniversary of the Edmonton & District Soccer Association, The EDSA had put up a magnificent trophy, the EDSA 75th Anniversary Cup, to be competed for annually at the most significant game to be played in Edmonton. Canada and Chile squared off for penalty kicks, to determine ownership of the Cup. As the crowd stood in excitement, Chile won, 4 kicks to 3. Canada was later to go on to the quarterfinals of the Olympics, matching mighty Brazil all the way through regular time and two overtime periods, before eventually being eliminated on penalty kicks.

THE REGIONAL TRAINING CENTRE

The Regional Training Centre, under the direction of Mr. Len Vickery, opened its doors in summer '85 at the University of Alberta in Edmonton. The Centre is funded primarily by The Alberta Sport Council and secondarily by The Alberta and Canadian Soccer Associations. The University of Alberta provides office facilities and both indoor and outdoor training facilities.

The purpose of the RTC is to provide a training facility for elite players identified by both the Alberta and Canadian Soccer Associations, and other provincial associations. The immediate objective was to establish a pool of potential national calibre players, who may be called upon at any time to attend full national tryout camps for one of the various C.S.A. International squads (including U16, Youth team, F.I.S.U. Games, Universiade team, Pan-American Games team and the National World Cup team).

Elite players not only from Alberta, but also from the other two Prairie provinces, are being encouraged to select the University of Alberta as their educational institution. Players wishing simply to be part of the identified pool but not attend university have also been accommodated in the program.

The establishment of this centre has also strengthened our own provincial player development program, as it provides us with a springboard from which we may launch all of our annual Elite Player programs. The centre also helps provide technical, tactical and fitness awareness beyond the club environment.

The RTC has rapidly moved from the realm of proposal to an established and integral part of the A.S.A. Technical Program. The full potential of the Centre may only be realized in the long term, but should provide Alberta's

elite soccer players with a realistic chance to compete nationally, attract top prospects from across Alberta and Western Canada and subject them to high standard coaching on an extended basis, attract national team events to Alberta on a more regular basis, assist in the overall promotion of soccer in Alberta, and be an expansion of the C.S.A.'s national team program by becoming truly more national in scope.

Discipline and commitment are carefully monitored, and the coaching staff is very demanding of players as regards attendance, punctuality, dress, behavior and attitude.

In conjunction with the scouting procedures of the Alberta Select Team Programs the R.T.C. has established a province-wide network of scouts. Player profile forms are kept, and the players' physical, technical, tactical and psychological attributes are monitored on an ongoing basis.

JIM FLEMING OF THE C.S.A.

No history of Alberta soccer would be complete without reference to Jim Fleming. At the time of writing this document, Mr. Fleming, an Edmontonian, has been the President of The Canadian Soccer Association since 1982, and achieved both National and International prominence as the builder of Canada's National Team Program. His drive and determination has just culminated in Canada's National Team achieving their first-ever qualificataion for the World Cup, the most prestigious sporting event in the world.

In the dressing room in St. John's, Nfld. after Canada had defeated Honduras 2 - 1 to go undefeated through 10 qualifying games to make it to the World Cup, team captain Bruce Wilson stopped the celebrations. He stood on a bench and thanked Jim Fleming on behalf of the players and coaching staff, as being the man who meant the most to Canada's success. He thanked Fleming for showing the damn-the-torpedoes sort of support that they'd never had before, and which they'd received in abundance to make possible their time of triumph. They then presented Jim with the game ball.

Canada's qualification is no small feat when one considers that we have only 20 Canadian professional players, and Jim Fleming often had difficulty in securing the release of those players from their American Clubs to participate in the qualifying rounds to the World Cup. In comparsion, England has over 5,000 professional players to choose from.

Along with fellow-Edmontonian Bill Gilhespy, Jim is a strong proponent of the new Canadian Professional League, which will begin operations in May 1987, and will provide the developmental opportunities for many more Canadian players.

In addition to his Canadian responsibilities, he is a member of the Technical Committee of F.I.F.A., the world governing body of soccer (the first Canadian to hold that position), a member of the F.I.F.A. Special T.V. Committee, and a member of the Rules and Regulations Commission of CONCACAF, the governing body for North and Central America.

Before moving up to the Presidency of the National governing body, Jim was heavily involved in soccer right from the time he moved to Alberta from Scotland in 1968. He was an active referee in Edmonton for three years, before becoming President of the Referees Association in 1971.

In that same year, he was elected to the Board of Directors of the Edmonton & District Soccer Association, and in 1972 became President of E.D.S.A..

In 1974 he was elected Vice-President of the Alberta Soccer Association and also held the portfolio of Director of Referee Affairs.

From 1974 through 1980, he was the President of the Alberta Soccer Association, and in that capacity served on the Senior Amateur Committee of the Canadian Soccer Association from 1978 through 1980.

In 1980, he was elected Director of Non-Amateur/Professional Soccer of the Canadian Soccer Association and in 1982 assumed the Presidency of the C.S.A..

Under Jim's direction soccer has emerged as the most popular participant outdoor sport in Canada, with over 300,000 active players, referees and officials.

PROFESSIONAL SOCCER IN ALBERTA

The history of professional soccer in Alberta has, as throughout North America, been one of extreme ups and downs.

By the late 1970's, the North American Soccer League was at the height of its popularity. Canadian-based NASL teams were already established in Toronto and Vancouver.

In 1978, three Edmontonians, Brian Rice, Val Brown and Joe Petrone formed the Edmonton Black Gold, a professional side made up of local players and players from Europe. Exhibition matches were organized against a variety of professional teams, including some from Europe and some from the NASL. For the most part, Black Gold showed competitive soccer in every game, with a game versus Seattle being the only exception.

On June 3rd, 1978, the Black Gold played host to Roma of Italy in their first ever game. These two teams would meet each other two more times over a four day period.

The final score in that inaugural game was 3-1 in favour of the Italians. Still, the Black Gold, a team of virtually total strangers only recently assembled by British coach Ian Crawford, went stride for stride with Roma for much of the game. Geoff Hurst scored Black Gold's first ever goal in the 67th minute. Tony Eyo and Joe Poplawski, two local products, were in the starting eleven and did not look out of place. The game was viewed by 9,212 appreciative fans at Clarke Stadium.

Two days later in Calgary, Black Gold won their first game ever by defeating Roma 1-0. Franco Peccenini of Roma scored on his own goal to give the local side the win. On June 7th, the two teams tied 1-1 back in Edmonton.

On June 14th, the Black Gold played host to the Vancouver Whitecaps of the NASL, winning the match 3-2 before 1,164 fans. Local boys Joe Poplawski, and Sig Eichorst scored 2 of Black Gold's 3 goals.

Nine days later Black Gold were defeated 3-1 by Benfica of Portugal. The Portuguese team treated the exhibition game more like a European Cup final enroute to their victory before 12,000 spectators. Still it was a good showing for Black Gold.

Other than a 7-0 shellacking at the hands of the Seattle Sounders of the NASL, Black Gold proved to be competitive throughout the season, and whetted considerable interest in pro soccer in Edmonton, so much so that immediate moves were made to secure an NASL franchise for Edmonton.

In 1979, millionaire entrepreneur Peter Pocklington purchased the Oakland Stompers of the NASL, moved them to Edmonton and renamed them the Edmonton Drillers. Their first home game, in April 1979, drew over 21,000 fans.

For four years, the Drillers provided Edmonton fans with entertaining soccer action, both indoors and outdoors. Before Peter Pocklington decided to fold the team at the end of the '82 outdoor season, the Drillers had won one outdoor conference title, and the 1980/81 NASL Indoor Championship.

The Drillers, during their tenure in Edmonton, assisted the A.S.A. by taking part in coaching courses, conducting soccer skill clinics, and by playing the Provincial All-Stars and donating the proceeds to the A.S.A.. Most importantly, the Drillers signed and developed a number of Albertans, which underscored the club's commitment to provide opportunities for Canadians to play at a

professional level.

By 1980 both Calgary and Edmonton had professional teams. Edmonton had the Drillers of the North American Soccer League and Calgary had the semi-professional Outlaws.

The Calgary Outlaws were formed in the early part of 1980, and played a series of exhibition games to try to prove the potential for professional soccer in Calgary. The Outlaws were made up of the best available talent from Southern Alberta and occasional guest players from the three Canadian NASL teams.

The Outlaws first game came on April 6th, 1980, versus none other than the Edmonton Drillers. The final score was 4-2 in favour of the Drillers. The Outlaws, under coach Peter Welsh, simply "ran out of gas" in the second half, as the Drillers scored 3 straight goals. Mark Collins scored the Outlaws first ever goal in front of 4,000 curious onlookers at Calgary's McMahon Stadium.

The history of the Outlaws was a short one, as the club's financial picture went from bad to worse to terrible and after only a few games had been played they were forced to disband in October 1980.

However, not to be outdone by Peter Pocklington, Nelson Skalbania purchased the Memphis Rogues of the NASL and moved the team to Calgary where they were re-named the Boomers. The Boomers first game came on November 19th, 1980 when they played the Toronto Blizzards in NASL indoor action. Calgary won this game 9-5 in front of over 4,000 fans at the Calgary Corral.

The Boomers folded at the end of the 1981 season, after having achieved a 17-win, 15-loss record.

In 1983, the Canadian Professional Soccer League was formed, with franchises in Edmonton, Calgary, Toronto, Hamilton, Mississauga and Montreal. The concept of the League was excellent. Canadian players would form the great majority of each team's composition. Unfortunately, the CPSL rushed itself into existence without ensuring that the necessary finances were in place. Toronto and Montreal folded early into the season. Edmonton's owner also ran out of money, but the players stayed on, without pay, to finish the season undefeated.

The two Alberta teams, Edmonton Eagles and Calgary Mustangs, met in the semi-finals that first and only season the league operated. On July 17th, the first game of a best of three western semi final series was played at Clarke Stadium, with Edmonton winning 2-1. Game two was played on July 21st at Mewata Stadium before only 1,000 people, and the Eagles again won 2-1 to move on to the first (and only) League Championship game.

At the League final, played in Edmonton, the Eagles ran their winning streak to 13 league and playoff games without a loss, winning the C.P.S.L. title 2-0 over Hamilton Steelers, in front of over 7,000 fans.

Pro soccer returned to Alberta for yet another try in the summer of 1985, as the Edmonton Brick Men played an eight game exhibition schedule. The team achieved a record of four wins, three draws and only one loss, all with only two imports, again proving that Canadian players can play well at a high level of competition. To a large extent, the Brick Men achieved in 1985 a rebuilding of pro soccer's credibility with fans, media and sponsors.

The Brick Men defeated Victoria Riptide (five National team members) twice, 3-1 and 4-0, and tied Toronto

Inex, successor to the Blizzard (seven National team memmmbers) 0-0, during their first season. The lone loss came at the hands of Dundee from the Scottish Premier Division, 5-1. Other games included victories over the Canadian National Youth Team (1-0), the Canada Summer Games Team (5-0), and draws against the Pacific Coast All-Stars (2-2) and the Vancouver Nationals (1-1), coached by Canada's World Cup team coach, Tony Waiters, and including several members of the World Cup side.

At the time of writing, the Brick Men were preparing for their second year of operation, this time in an organized league.

As with the Drillers and Eagles before them, the Brick Men conducted numerous soccer skill clinics throughout the Edmonton area, and employed several local players.

1986

The 1980's have seen unprecedented growth in terms of both technical and administrative programs.

On a per-capita basis, Alberta has one of the highest ratios of player, coach and referee registrations in Canada.

Alberta teams are now a perennial threat in national competition in virtually every age group.

Government funding, fueled by lottery preceeds, has increased dramatically in recent years.

Indoor Soccer continues to grow in popularity, and the A.S.A. is studying the feasibility of introducing Indoor Soccer Schools.

The Association is also studying the feasibility of a phased move to the Mini-Soccer format for U-10 players.

The A.S.A. has developed sophisticated marketing and merchandizing programs, and has several significant corporate sponsors in place.

The Summer Soccer School program has seen steady increased participation.

Our technical programs are second to none in the country.

This year is the 75th Anniversary of the Association. As we move into the future, perhaps we should take a moment to reflect on some of the more philosophical questions concerning what we do and why and how we do it.

The purpose of the Soccer Schools should be healthy activity first, and technical sports-oriented instruction

second. As U-10 participants pass the mini-soccer stage, concentrated coaching will take place with a far better success rate, since the players will have acquired the necessary physical ability to deal with the technical demand.

The purpose of the Elite Camps should be to show a player the direction he can go if he combines his natural talent with the proper attitude, and is willing to commit himself.

Alberta has proven to be competitive on the national level. To maintain this position, an all out effort by our Provincial Coaching Staff is needed, and continued co-operation from the districts and clubs in the matter of scheduling and releasing players.

The one program which is the pinnacle of the Player Development Program, the professional game, must be in place, to close the chain from recreational to competitive to professional soccer. As a Canadian Professional League draws closer to reality, a high Canadian content in management, coaching and player development is an absolute must.

Violence against officials must be severely dealt with. On the other hand, the interpretation of the laws of the game by the official must be logical and supportive of the situation.

More emphasis should be placed on recruiting referees, and we should put our experience and knowledge into a drive to educate our soccer community to live with each other in harmony to the betterment of our sport.

As regards our Coaching Program, the question can sometimes be asked whether we are really instructing new coaches to coach players to become better players,

or influencing those new coaches to become too competitive. Are we educating new coaches enough that the game below the age of 10 years belongs to mini soccer and not the eleven a-side game? Are we forceful enough to convince coaches who are coaching in the Elite Program of the Association that it is mandatory to be certified at a level which is a guarantee that teams from Alberta competing against teams from other provinces have no weaknesses in any area of coaching?

This will be the challenge for the next few years; to get the message across to coaches at all levels, that soccer is far more enjoyable if players become technically better and, therefore, teams more skillful. Far too often technique becomes the victim of tactic or condition work, where it should be the number one priority for all coaches.

We must develop the new environment of Indoor Soccer to its fullest.

We should become better attuned to the problems of our smaller cities and remote areas.

We must continue to push the development of improved programs for girl and women players.

We must ensure that proper facilities, both outdoors and indoors, are constructed to meet the growing needs of participants in Alberta.

Lastly, we must constantly maintain our enthusiasm, motivation and commitment as we begin work on building the next chapters in our history.

APPENDIX I

Past Presidents of the Alberta Soccer Association

1909-1910	J.W. Ward	Edmonton
1911	Rev. R. Pearson	Edmonton
1912	J. H. Ballantyne	Calgary
1913	Horace Meeres	Red Deer
1914	James Gow	Calgary
1915-1919	Charles M. Smail	Edmonton
1920	A. J. Blackburne	Lethbridge
1921	Lt. Col. A. Pearkes	Calgary
1922	Robert Stephen	Calgary
1923-1925	Charles M. Smail	Edmonton
1926-1929	Fred Crumblehulme	Calgary
1930-1955	Tom Green / Col. N.D. Dingle / Charles E. Pinnell / Sven Eriksen	
1955-1959	Arthur O. Davies	Calgary
1960	Kurt Fuchs	Edmonton
1961	John Oslan	Calgary
1962-1963	Sam Donaghey	Edmonton
1964-1965	Sid Slater	Lethbridge
1966-1967	Harry Skidmore	Edmonton
1970	Jeno Balogh	Edmonton
1971-1972	Tony Konye	Edmonton
1973	John Zold	Calgary
1974	Don Taylor	Calgary
1975-1979	Jim Fleming	Edmonton
1980-1984	Bill Gilhespy	Edmonton
1985-	Victor Bidzinski	Sherwood Park

APPENDIX II

Life Members of The Alberta Soccer Association

C. Smail, Calgary

C. Tinnell, Calgary

T. Connelly, Calgary

Col. N. Dingle, Calgary

J. King, Calgary

J. Dolan, Calgary

J. McKee, Edmonton

Sam Donaghey, Edmonton

Martin Collingwood, Edmonton

Bill Griffiths, Edmonton

Frank Mills, Lethbridge

Jack Butler, Calgary

Hugh Baker, Calgary

Peter Hancock, St. Albert

Jack Taylor, Calgary

ST GEORGE'S FOOTBALL CLUB. 1909.



HARRY LOVELOCK



GEO. BLOOR



WILLIAM RUFF



C.H. GRIMBLE



ERNEST MOORHOUSE



WILLIAM THOMAS



LYDD JENNINGS



G.W. PARNELL



E.J. ALEXANDER



EDWARD AMBLER



E.J. WARNER



BOB HENLEY



THOMAS BELL



F. TOMKINS

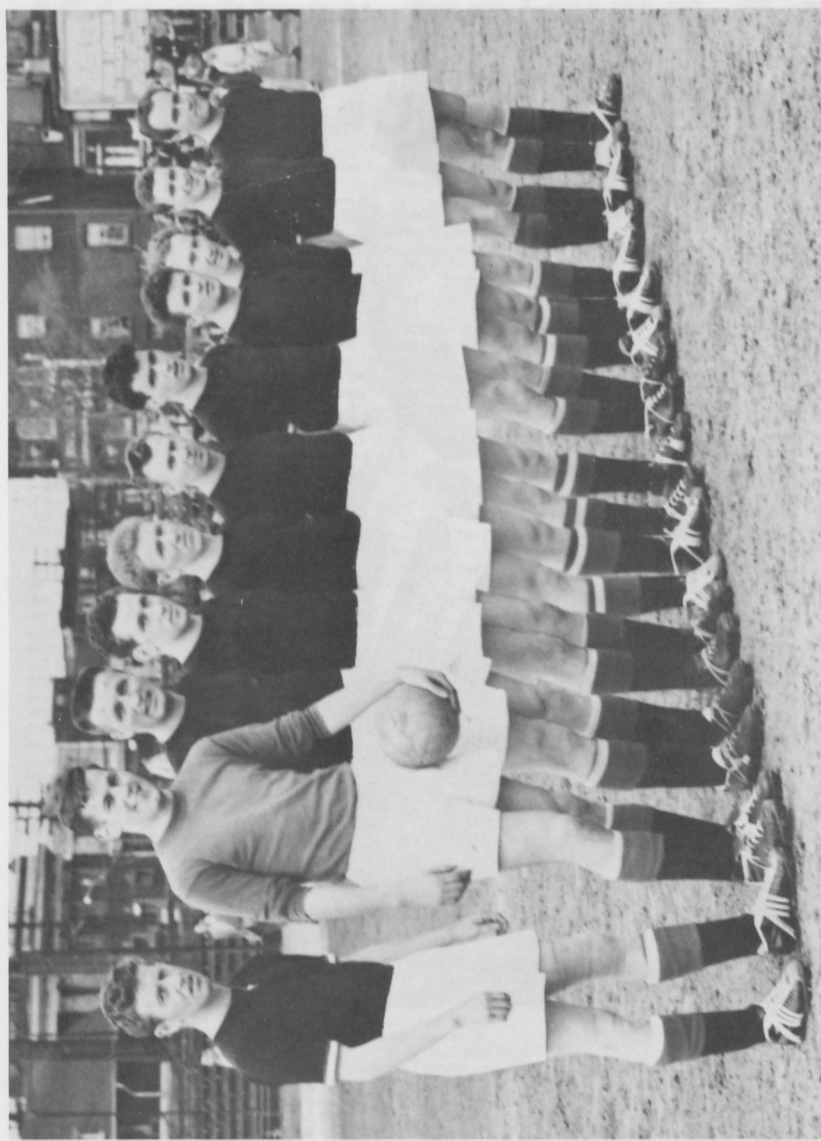




ST. GEORGE'S FOOTBALL CLUB
EDMONTON - 1910

THE NAMES OF THE PLAYERS ARE
LOST IN ANTIQUITY

ST. GEORGE'S FOOTBALL CLUB, EDMONTON 1910



1957 Toronto Sparta - The young man 5th from the left is Bert Goldberger. He came to play in Canada on a 6-month contract, and stayed to become a significant factor in the Development of Alberta soccer.



BERT GOLDBERGER TODAY - VETERAN A.S.A. TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

The Edmonton Journal

SECTION THREE

EDMONTON, ALBERTA, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 1960

PAGE 31

Weather Holding Key To Big Game Tonight

The weatherman holds the secret to the success of tonight's exhibition soccer game between Heart of Midlothian and Northern Alberta All-Stars.

Tickets have been going "briskly" for the 8:30 match at Clarke Stadium but Alberta soccer officials, wise to the ways of fans, are keeping their fingers crossed, hoping the sky stays up.

Several rumors have made the rounds that if this game doesn't draw touring teams may be a thing of the past for Edmonton but a record crowd is still expected for the big game.

The All-Stars were in a jovial mood yesterday. Bruce Aves, handling a soccer ball with a group of other players, quipped: "Get your hands on the ball now. It'll be the only time we will."

But joking aside, the underdog All-Stars are seriously waiting for tonight's tilt. They realize that they are expected to put up the strongest local showing yet against a visiting side—and intend to.

A juvenile exhibition game between North Side All-Stars and South Side All-Stars starts the show at 8 p.m. At 8:20 lineups of teams and introduction of officials is scheduled with exchange of pennants by team captains to follow.

Mayor Roper will handle opening kick-off duties with the game scheduled for 8:30 p.m.

All-Star personnel is:

Mario Paulon (Goalkeeper) 23-years-old, born in Italy and played goal for Treviso in the North Italy first Division. Came to Canada in 1957 and was chosen as All Star Goalkeeper in 1958-59 season. Now plays for Edmonton Edelweiss Club in the Alberta League.

Jack Toering (Goalkeeper) 26-years-old, born in Holland and the 6' Dutch Canadian played against the Hearts on their last visit. Was All Star choice for the 1957/8 season and this year again has shown great form with his club, the Edmonton Excelsior City League team.

in this position has topped the goal scorers lists for three years. He now proves that he is equally as good in the centre-half slot. Plays for the South Side Legion team in the Alberta League, and has been an All Star choice three times.

Bernard Aves (Right Half) 21-years-old, brother of Bruce and also born in London, England, is one of the few players who can play equally as well in any position on the field and who has been one of the most consistent in honest endeavour. Played in Edmonton junior soccer and now plays for South Side Legion in the Alberta League.

Bill Sydney (Outside Right) 27-years-old, born in Scotland and came to Canada in 1957 and played that year for Toronto All Stars against Tottenham Hotspurs. Now plays for PPCLI in the Edmonton City League and

has shown great promise this season.

Rupert Goldberger (Inside Right) 25-years old, born in Germany and came to Canada in 1957 where he was soon recognized as one of the best inside forwards in the game. Played against Admira Wien in 1958 for Alberta and was voted MVP in Edmonton last year. Plays for Edmonton Victoria in the Alberta League.

Denis Bradley (Centre Forward) 25-years-old, from Harrogate, England. Played for PPCLI in 1956 when they were Brigade Champions in West Germany. Is a P.T. Instructor with rank of Sgt. in the 2nd Batt. of the PPCLI for whom he plays in the Edmonton City League. Set new scoring record for Alberta last season when he scored 61 goals.

Johnny Clarke (Inside Left) 27-

Herman Nipp (Right Back) 21-years-old, born in Germany, height 6'; this young fullback has shown great promise since coming to Canada only three years ago. Plays for the Edmonton Victoria Club in the Alberta League and received All Star Award for this position last season.

Hank Van Leersum (Left Back) 35-years-old, born in Holland where he played as a semi-pro with D.W.S. Amsterdam. Came to Canada in 1958 and played for City Police in the Edmonton City League. Now plays for South Side Legion in the Alberta League and was chosen as All Star at the end of the 1959 season.

Jackie Wallace (Right Half) 23-years-old, captain, was born in Edinburgh and later played in Lothian junior soccer before coming to Canada in 1954. Played and scored against the Hearts on their last visit to Edmonton. Four times chosen All Star and one of the most promising players in Canada today. Plays for S.S. Legion in the Alberta League.

Bruce Aves (Centre Half) 24-years-old, born in London, England, played at centre-forward against the Hearts last time and

George Ivan Payne (Trainer), born in Grimsby, England, and a Sgt. with PPCLI. Left winger for British Army teams in Palestine, Germany and England. Came to Canada in 1957 and signed for Edmonton City Police team and represented Alberta in the left-half position when Hearts were here in 1958. Qualified under Sir Stanley Rouse as a Football Association Coach.

years-old, raised in Belfast, N. Ireland and played junior soccer at Solitude Park and later returned there to play for Cliftonville in the Irish League, 1954-5. Then represented Plymouth Command in their Royal Navy team. Came to Canada in 1957 and plays for Chemical Rovers in the Edmonton Strathcona League.

Gerhart Shwertz (Outside Left) 21-years-old, born in Germany and came to Canada two years ago, gaining immediate All Star recognition while playing with the Victoria Club. Now plays for Edelweiss in the Alberta League and shows promise of future All Star honors.

Bill Hughes (Half or Full Back) 32-years-old, born in Glasgow, Scotland, where he joined Celtic at only 15. Came to Canada in 1951 and has represented Alberta against the Irish F.A. in 1953, Huddersfield in 1955 and The Hearts in 1958. Hughes is Captain of the Edmonton Scottish team in the Alberta League.

Terry Smith (Inside Forward or Half-back) 26-years-old, born in Huddersfield, England and learned soccer with the local YMCA teams. Came to Canada in 1957 and qualified for All Star honors that year while playing for the Edmonton City Police. This clever and constructive player now plays for the Edmonton Maple Leaf Club in the City League.

Dennis Norman Brown (Inside Forward or Half-back) 34-years old, hails from London, England. He is a Sergeant in the 2nd Batt. PPCLI for whom he plays in the Edmonton City League. Played amateur for Swinton Town in the English Third Division and for British Army teams overseas. Came to Canada in 1956 and played for the City Police in Edmonton and was chosen to oppose the Hearts in their last visit.

Martin Urner (Manager), born in Oldenburg, Germany, where he played as right winger for Turn Und Sport Verein in the West German First Division. Came to Canada in 1953 and has been very successful as Manager for the past two years of the Edmonton Victoria Club.

'Wizard' Leading Toronto City Here

* * * * *

July 1 Exhibition At Clarke Stadium

Sixteen players, the cream of Edmonton soccer, will form an All Star team to meet Toronto City July 1 when the Easterners bring their stable of soccer elite to the north field of Clarke Stadium.

Stanley Matthews, the "Wizard" of English Soccer, is the star player and main threat of Toronto City, top team of the newly-formed Eastern Canada Professional Soccer League.

Matthews has thrilled soccer fans throughout the world for many years, and at 46 is still a man right on top of the totem of soccer greats. A living legend, he maintains an active career which includes plans to return to English competition next season.

Two other English greats on the roster are right-half Danny Blanchflower and Johnny Hayes, inside left.

Blanchflower captained an Irish International team and also led Tottenham Hotspurs, 1960-61's "wonder" team.

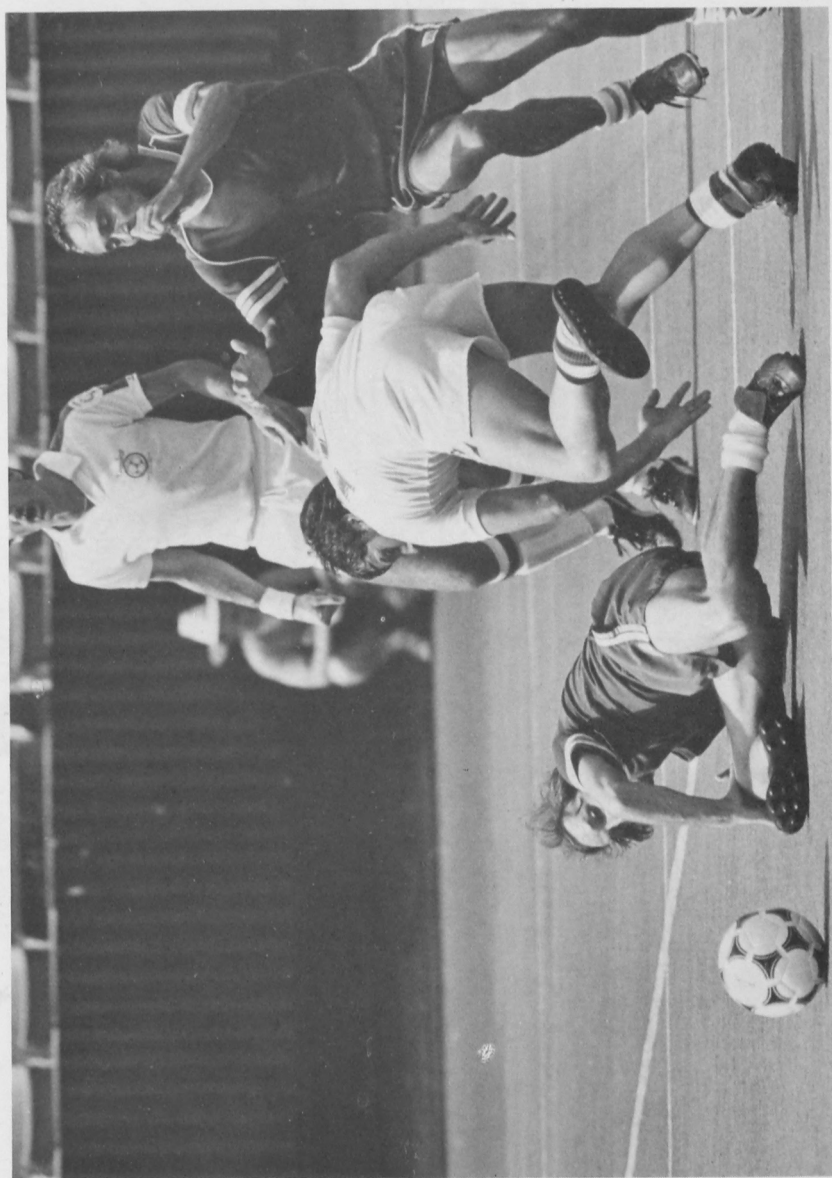
Haynes, who has also piloted a couple of winners, brings to Edmonton experience gained at the helm of Fulham and on the English International team.

Toronto City are managed by Tommy Younger, who gained stardom tending Scottish goals. The visitors will play their last professional league game June 23 or 24 before coming to "Edmonton". After their exhibition here, they will play two games at the coast.



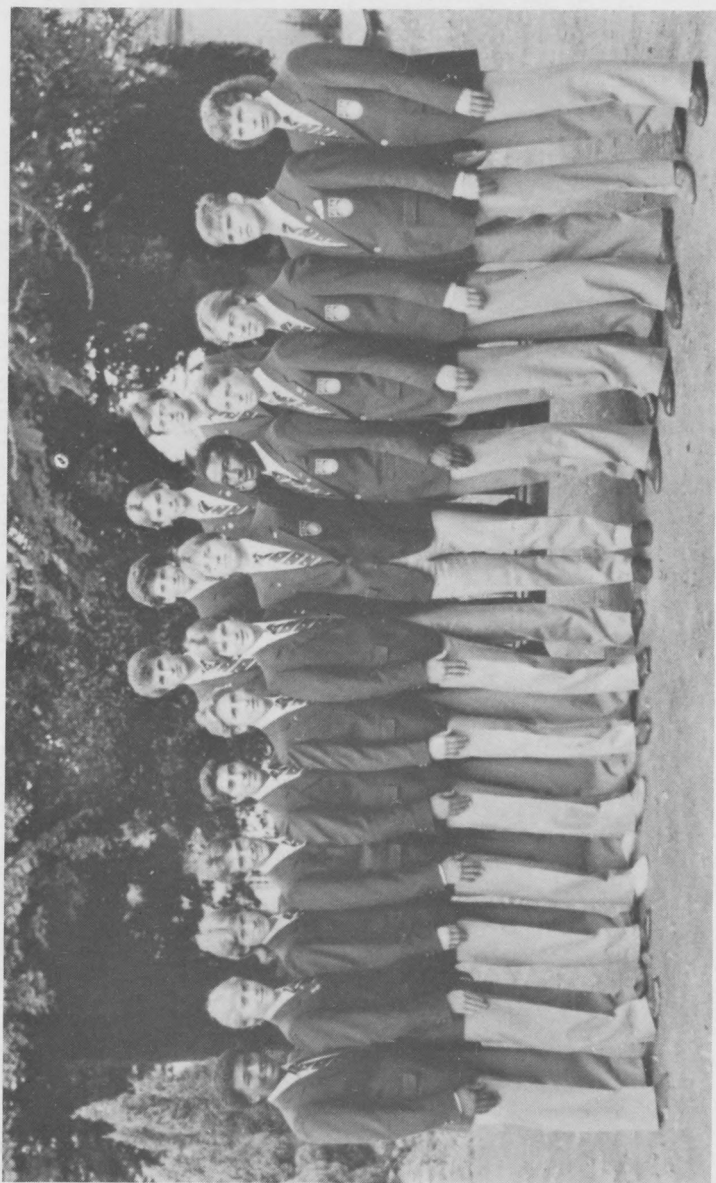
EDMONTON BEWARE—Stanley Matthews, one of the greatest living soccer players in the world, will headline the Toronto City soccer club when they meet an Edmonton All-Star team at Clarke Stadium in an exhibition game July 1. Tor-

onto City, currently first in the Eastern Canada Professional League, has a number of famous English players on its lineup. Here Matthews admires a ball emblazoned with the initials of the Eastern team.



INDOOR ARENA ACTION

Both Edmonton and Calgary have double-field facilities



1984 U-19 Select team in England

Tow Row: Roman Piekarczyk, Frank Saporito, Scott McGeoch, Paul Walters
 Standing Left to Right: Maurice Morgan, Charles O'Toole, Robert Biro,
 John Preskar, Mario Siculo, Dave Vriens, Peter Wieninger,
 Richard Maslowski, Aden Wells, Duwayne Lang, Scott Parsons,
 Davor Domic, Curt Elchuk



1984 England Tour - Alberta U-19 Selects (in white) and Corinthians F.C.



ALBERTA IS AN ACKNOWLEDGED LEADER IN WOMENS SOCCER



1966 Edmonton Canadians - Undefeated W.C.S.L. Champions

L. to R. - Hank Van Lersum (coach), Jeno Balogh (manager), Ed Dehoog, Sergio Bertie, Erick Jacobsen, Mike Armstrong, Ben Gustafson, Bill McGee, Nick Dehoog, John Pekete, Bruno Schendel, Geraldo Pagnani, Joe Petrone, Joe Brandt, Bill Salmon, Brian Kelly, Joe Kelly, Mike Petrone (Eqpt. Mgr.)



1985 EDMONTON ANGELS

The Angels were four time consecutive National Champions, 1982-'83-'84 and '85

Front row, left to right : S. Brown (Coach), A. Wildemann, M. Hughes, A. Hughes, A. Saiko,
L. Gordey, C. Rustemeier, J. McEachern, J. Lemieux, G. Amort Larson
(Manager/Trainer).

Back row, left to right : S. Brand, I Borowiecki, I. Ardessi, K. MacDonald, T. David (Captain),
S. Brown, G. Desmenles, I. Fong, I. MacLaren.



1985 EDMONTON ITAL-CANADIANS

Ital were National Bronze medalists in both 1984 and 1985

Top Row L. to R.: Coach-Mike Traficante, Sandro Adessi, Pat Bruni, Chris Odinga, Tony Cuglietta, Salvatore Cammarata, Lorenzo Antonello, Vince Reda, John Josa, Andy Takats, John Caputo, Ass't Coach Frank Rotar

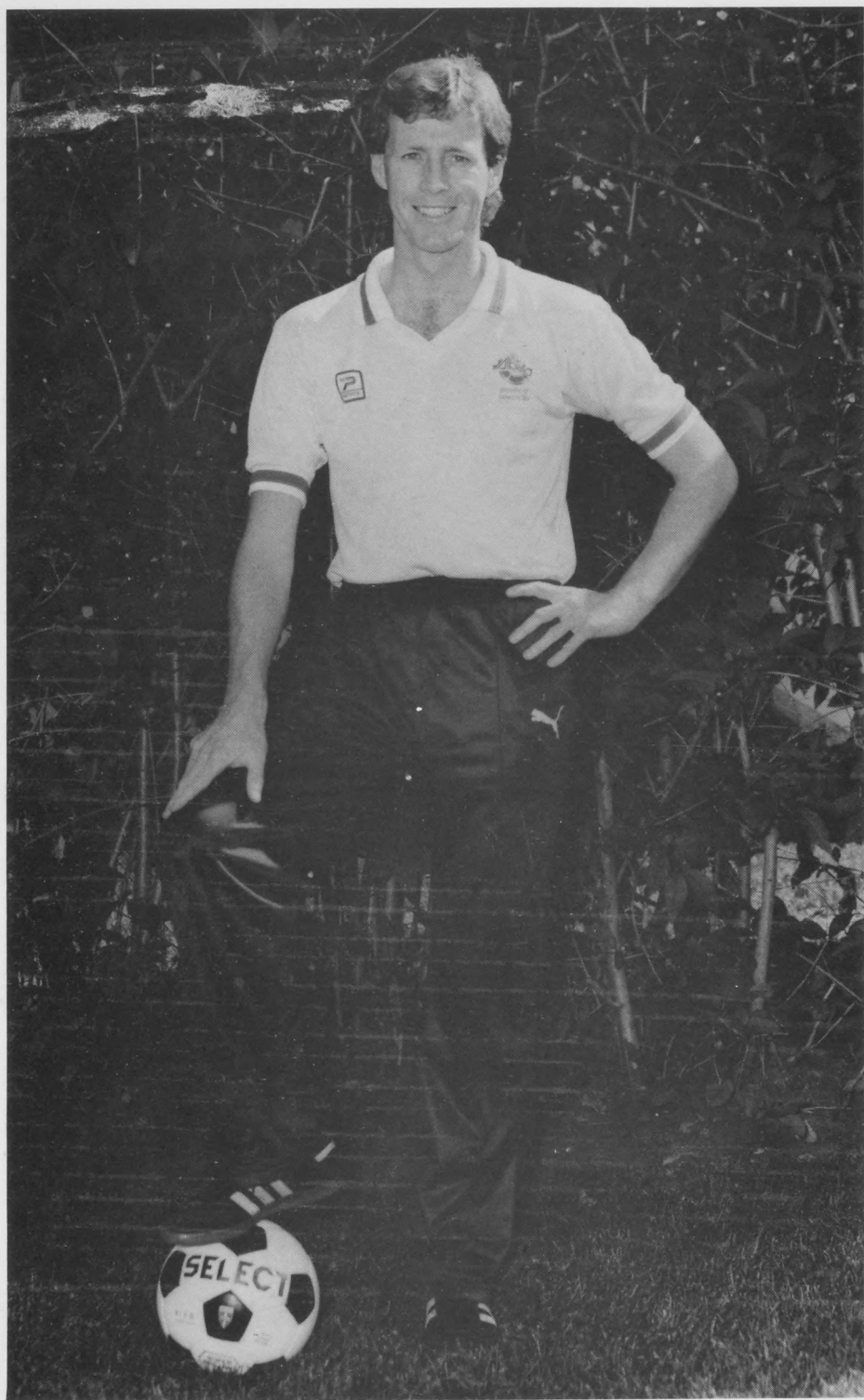
Bottom Row L. to R.: Aldo Esposito, Mario Siculo, John Lauro, Vince Guido, Peter Synder, Cap.-Rob Kociancic, Sergio Nattioli, Darren Poole



AN A.C.A. SUMMER SOCCER SCHOLAR



CANADIAN SOCCER ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT JIM FLEMING OF EDMONTON



LEN VICKERY - first Director of the Regional Training Centre

PASQUALE DE LUCA



NATIONAL TEAM



CAREER: One of five Canadian Internationals from Inex Canada in Toronto...First full international against Haiti in 1983, at Port-au-Prince...Now has 17 caps...Playing for Canada in the Olympics last year the highlight of his career... Played parts of four seasons in the North American Soccer League, the first in his hometown with the Edmonton Drillers... Played on Edmonton's NASL indoor champions in 1980-81... Graduated from Archbishop O'Leary High in Edmonton and drafted in the third round (1980) by the Drillers...Toronto Blizzard, having been opponents for one of his two starts, acquired him in June, 1982...Played for Canada's Youth Internationals in 1979-80 and for the Alberta Under-21 team in the 1981 Canada Games...Chosen the Molson Most Valuable Player in the Blizzard's game against Sporting Cristal of Peru in the 1982 Toronto International Tournament...Played for the Soccer Bowl finalists in the 1983 NASL championship game in Vancouver...Usually plays the left side and is a "born goal scorer".

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1985 U-21 Team - Gold Medal Winners - Canada Summer Games

Back Row: Dave Hughes, Hanjo Kim, Adam Mills, Peter Weininger, Danyang Lang

(left) Elchuk

Middle Row: Manager Peter McKenzie, Mirio Sicol (captain), Dave Vriens,

Lavor Domic, Maurice Morgan, Salvi Cammarata, Roman Piekarczyk,

Coach John Walker

Sitting: Charles O'Toole, Scott McGeoch, Frank Saporito, Paul Walters, Rob Biro

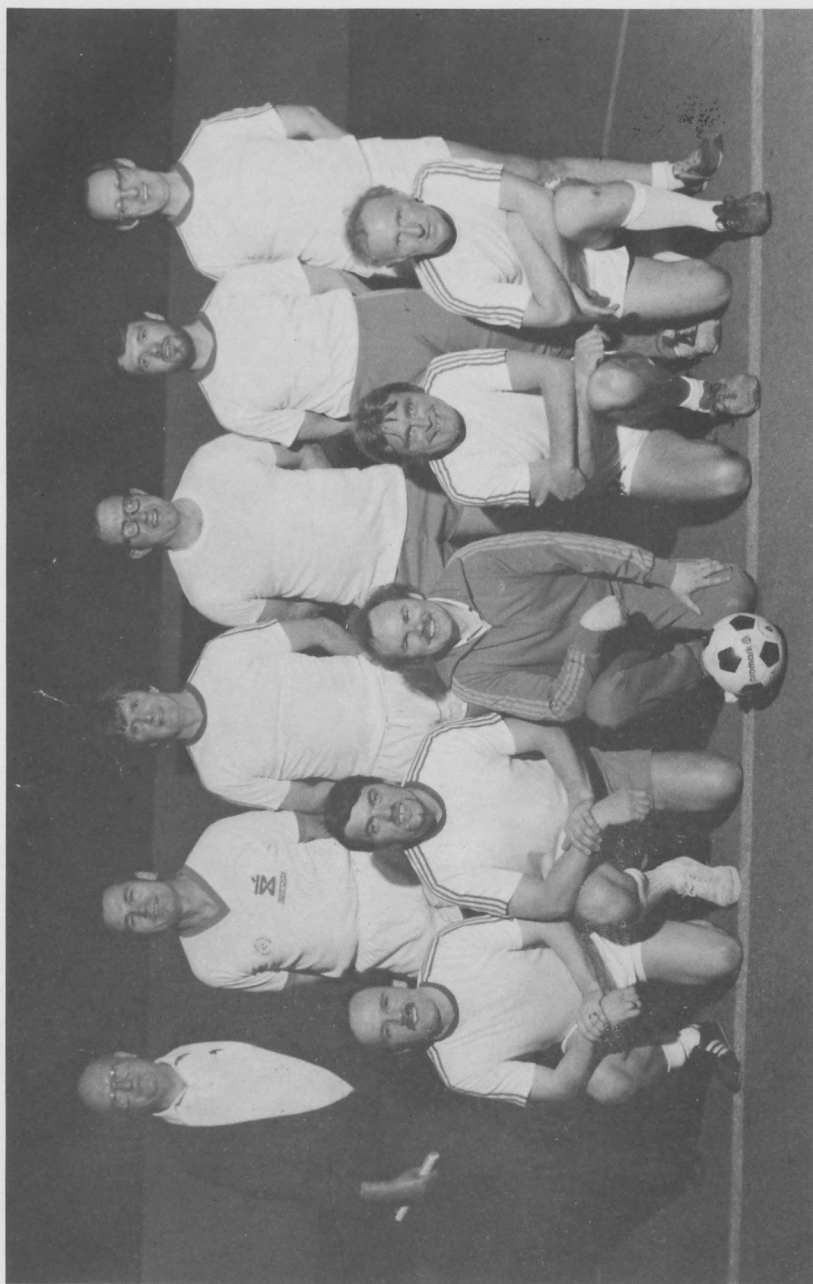


1985 U-21 Team - Gold Medal Winners - Canada Summer Games

Back Row: Dave Hughes, Hanjoo Kim, Aden Wells, Peter Weininger, Duwayne Lang,
Curt Elchuk

Middle Row: Manager Peter McKenzie, Mario Sicolo (captain), Dave Vriens,
Davor Domic, Maurice Morgan, Salvi Cammarata, Roman Piekarczyk,
Coach John Walker

Sitting: Charles O'Toole, Scott McGeoch, Frank Saporito, Paul Walters, Rob Biro



THE 1985 COUNCIL TEAM:

Standing, L to R: Harry Skidmore, Fred Kern, John Walker, Roger Stringer, Richard Zinkiewicz, Don Barnie Kneeling, L to R: Kevan Pipe, Peter McKenzie, Victor Bidzinski, Bill Gilhespy, Bert Goldberger



THE CHALLENGE CUP

ALBERTA SOCCER ASSOCIATION

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